Bird Notes

VOL. VIII.

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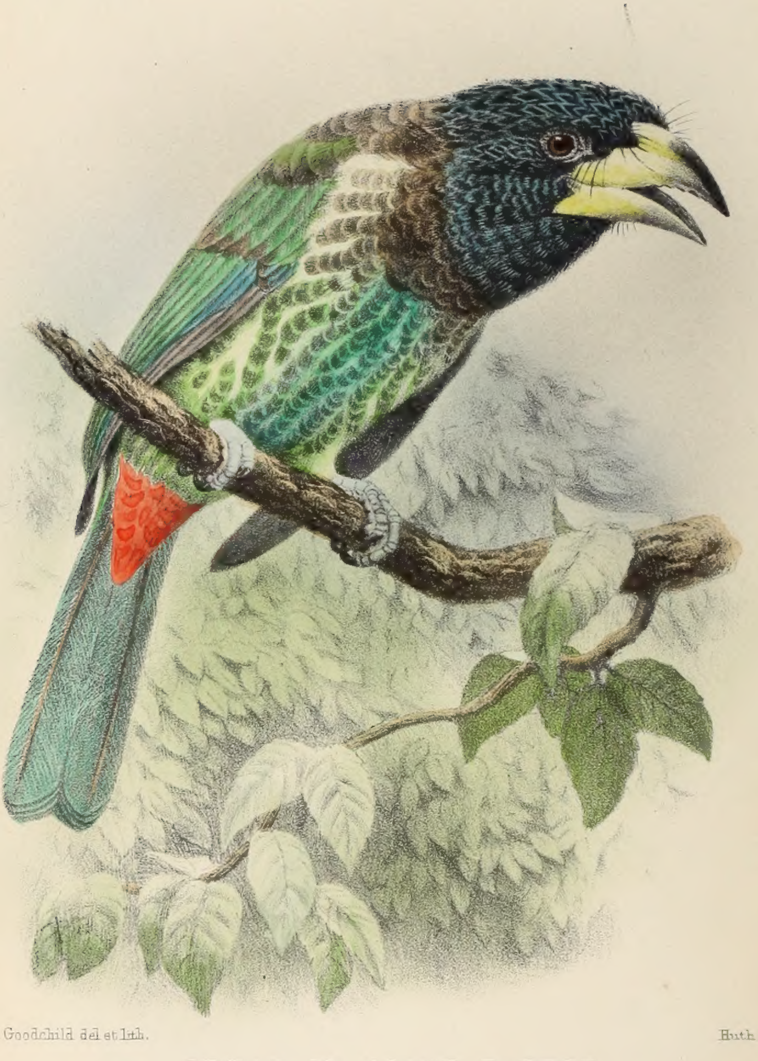

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GREAT OR GIANT BARBET

Megalæma virens.

From a living specimen in the possession of S.M. Townsend Esqre.

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BIRD NOTES.

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THE JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB
FOR THE STUDY OF ALL SPECIES OF BIRDS
IN FREEDOM AND CAPTIVITY.

VOLUME VIII.

"*By mutual confidence and mutual aid
Great deeds are done and great discoveries made.*"

EDITED BY
WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., M.B.N.H.S.

BRIGHTON
W. T. MOULTON & Co., 4, CHURCH STREET.
1909.

13-61981-Aug19

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Giant Barbet.

(*Megalæma virens*).

By S. M. TOWNSEND.

In December (1907) I heard that one of the dealers had two rare Barbets, and as I have always been rather partial to these birds, I went to see them. I cannot say I was particularly struck with them: they were in two small Parrot cages, which had only one perch in them, in fact, so caged that it would hardly have given any bird a chance of looking well, much less a large bird like the Giant Barbet. I came away without purchasing either of them, and I think I visited the shop two or three times before I made up my mind to buy one. At last, however, I picked out the one that I thought to be the best and brought him home. I was much struck when I had got him home and put him into a larger cage by the funny way he had of wagging his tail. It was a different movement to anything I have ever seen a bird do; he wagged it when spoken to from side to side, just the same as a dog does, but with a jerky, mechanical movement.

The first difficulty was, would he eat the food I give to my other birds; he soon decided that for me by simply ignoring it. I next tried the food I use for the Toucans, not ground fine as the other is, but in lumps about the size of a small nut; he ate that a little, but not enough to satisfy me, as he is a large bird and I had heard such a lot about his appetite. Of course he was having fruit every day, two bananas, but after a little time he seemed to take a dislike to these, so I tried him with boiled rice and currants, but he soon tired of this and used only to throw it about; and so he goes on, he seems continually to want a change. Last autumn I got some haw berries, he ate a few, but was not at all keen about them. Soon after I bought him I gave him a dead mouse, which he attacked and devoured with great gusto, but the next one he had he only knocked about on the perch and left after he had eaten the brains, and now I do not think he would take any notice of one at all. Sometimes he will eat a small piece of raw meat, but not always, and when mealworm time comes and you get round to him, it is quite a speculation whether he will take any or not, sometimes he will eat six or eight, at others only three, but if he does not want to eat it he will generally take one and bite it and throw it down. The only thing he gets at all excited about in the way of food is grapes, and he is always ready for them. He enjoys a good bath when the weather is warm, but evidently thinks it a mistake on cold, dull days.

When I first had him and he had settled down, he was quite gentle, and would let me touch his head and take my finger in his great beak and gently nibble it. He continued tame until we went for a holiday last summer; whether he was offended because he was not taken I do not know, but he has never been the same bird since. At times he seems to positively hate me and very often, if I stoop down to do anything by the corner of his cage, he literally throws himself down to try and get at me. I think my eye would be his choice, the way he drives at one's face reminds one very forcibly of a Heron striking. All the time he keeps up a harsh grating scream, and when he finds he cannot get at you he stands on the top perch, puts his head down, hunches up his back (looking very like that monstrosity the Belgian Canary) puffs out his feathers and keeps on screaming as long as you keep near him.

In Mr. Goodchild's beautiful picture of him it will be seen that he was offended by having his portrait painted, and is saying something not at all complimentary to the artist. I bought a cage for him that had been made for a Jay that had been very tiresome in knocking his previous cage about; this one I was told resisted all his efforts, but it was not any good for the Barbet, whenever he was left alone or wanted something to do he would choose a spot either in the back or side and go for it just like a Woodpecker, you could hear him hammering in the rooms below, so I had to take him out of that and put him in a home-made cage with thick wooden sides, which will take him some time to get through.

Until now I seem to have said nothing to recommend my Barbet, in fact given him a very bad character. A difficult bird to cater for, bad-tempered, and a destructive bird, but taking all this into account I have never regretted buying him and should be very sorry to part with him. After all is said and done we do not always want the birds that are easiest to keep, and he certainly repays me for all the trouble he has been, by the splendid condition he has come to this year. I think he wants human society, as it was when he was left alone in the bird-room he first took to knocking his cage about.

The other Barbet, which came with him, was purchased by the Zoo, and was first placed in the New Bird House, is as bad tempered as mine, as I heard one of our members found out at the expense of a nasty bite on the finger. Since seeing it there I have come to the decision that they are a pair. I think the one at the Zoo is a hen, the beak is a trifle shorter and the colour is not so brilliant, but it may have improved in that respect as I have not seen it for some time, and I hear it has been placed in the Western Aviary.

The Genus Megalæma.

By W. T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.

This consists of but two species, which have but few distinctive differences, and have been much confused together, as the following partial synonymy from B.M. Cat., Vol. XIX., will illustrate.

Megalæma virens.

Grand Barbu de la Chine, *D'Aubent*.........
Grand Barbu, *Buff*, *Levaill*.........
Grand Barbet, *Lath*.........
Bucco virens, *Bodd*, *Tabl*.........
Bucco grandis,.........*Temm*.........
Capito grandis, *Vicill*.........
Megalaima virens, *Gray*.........
Megalæma virens, *Swinh*.......*Hume*,...etc.
Megalæma marshallorum (nec *Swinh*),
Blyth and *Walden*..... etc.

Megalæma marshallorum.

? Le Grand Barbu, *Levaill*.........
Bucco grandis, *Gould*.........
Megalaima grandis, *Gray*.........
Megalaima virens (nec *Bodd*), *Blyth*.........
Megalaima virens (nec *Bodd*), *Irby*.........
Megalæma marshallorum, *Swinh*......etc.

KEY TO THE SPECIES [*B.M.C.*, *Vol. XIX.*]

a. Wing-coverts washed with maroon; head green..............*virens.*
b. Wing-coverts green not washed with maroon; head blue......*marshallorum.*

KEY TO THE SPECIES ["*Fauna of British India*," *Blandford*].

Head and neck deep violet-blue ....*M. marshallorum.*
Head and neck verditer with a greenish tinge...*M. virens.*

THE GREAT HIMALAYAN BARBET,

Megalæma marshallorum.

I have not a skin of this species to hand, so must perforce quote from "F. of Brit. India," as I am unable to get up to the Museum to examine and describe the skins there.

"*Colouration.* Feathers of head and neck all round black with deep violet blue edges; " back and scapulars brownish olive, the upper back with narrow pale green or greenish-" yellow longitudinal streaks; lower back, rump, and upper tail-coverts grass-green, with " brighter green edges; tail green above, blackish washed with pale blue below; secondary " coverts like back; primary-coverts and primaries near the base fringed with blue, outer " webs of secondaries green, tertiaries bluer with the tips olive-brown, remainder of quills " blackish-brown, inner webs with yellowish-white margins, and outer webs of primaries " with a pale linear border near the tips; upper breast dark olive-brown; lower breast and " abdomen blue in the middle, yellow with broad brownish shaft-stripes at the sides; under " tail-coverts scarlet."

" Bill yellow, pale in front, dusky at the edge of the upper mandible; irides brown; legs " greenish horny.—*Jerdon.*"

"Length 13; tail 4; wing 5.7; tarsus 1.25; bill from gage 2.1."

" *Distribution.* Throughout the Himalayas as far west as Murree, between 3000 and 8000 " feet elevation, also south of the Assam Valley in Manipur the Khási hills, and according " to Blyth, Arrakan. Birds from Karennee referred to this species by Wardlaw Ramsay " prove to belong to the next."

"*Habits, &c.* A forest bird; according to Jerdon, ' it has a loud plaintive call—*pi-o,* " *pi-o*—keeps to the top of high trees, lives entirely on fruit, and has a strong and vigorous " flight in great undulations.' It sometimes is met with in small flocks. It makes nest " holes in various trees, in the trunks and larger branches, from 10 to 50 feet from the " ground, and lays from the middle of May to the middle of July. The eggs are dull white, " usually four in number, and measure on an average 1·37 by ·98."—*Fauna of Brit. India.*

* * *

THE GREAT CHINESE BARBET (BLANDFORD),

Megalæma virens.

With Mr. Goodchild's exquisite plate accompanying these notes, a description is unnecessary, though perhaps I had better emphasise the distinctions between the two species other than those named in the keys quoted above.... The pale streaks on the upper back are fewer in number and not so distinct, and are whitish, almost imperceptibly stained with blue and not with green or yellow, as in *M. marshallorum.* It is a bird of the forests, keeping to the tops of the trees, subsisting almost entirely on fruit. It nests in holes in the trunks and larger branches of trees. Major Bingham found the eggs in Tenasserim during February and March.

Distribution. "Karennee and hill-forests of Northern Tenasserim as far south as Muleyit, east of Moulbrnein, extending thence unto South China." (*Fauna of British India.*)

Though having seen the Zoo specimen many times I have passed it as being the Giant Himalayan Barbet and have not made the minute examination to say which species it is really referable to.

The Barbets are all nice interesting birds, many of them being clad in really gorgeous plumage and many of them of a smaller size than the two herein reviewed. The following genera all make handsome cage birds but are by no means plentiful on the bird market: *Melanbucco, Tricholæma, Gymnobucco, Heliobucco, Simlorhis, Barbatula, Stictolæma, Calorhamphus, Megalæma, Cholorhea, Cyanops, Mesobucco, Xantholæma,* and others, comprising some 110 species. Thus it will be seen how numerous are these desirable and gorgeous birds, and also how few of them have been introduced to English aviculture.

The Birds of Gambia.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

Having been asked by the Editor to write something more on the Birds of Gambia for *Bird Notes*, I can only offer extracts from the note book I have kept during my seven years stay out here, and only hope that these rough jottings, and in many cases vain repetitions, will not bore my readers too much.

I commence with the WEAVERS, the family which contains the typical West African cage birds, and which is therefore likely to be of more immediate interest to the members of the F.B.C.

As a sort of preface I will quote from what I originally wrote on the subject in *Bird Notes* some years ago, following this by my notes on the individual species.

The members of this family which occur in this country seem easily divisible into three main groups (although however these overlap each other to some extent), according to their favourite natural haunts.

(1) Birds which frequent the native towns, and seem everywhere to enjoy the society of man, namely, the Common Firefinches, the Combassous, some of the large Yellow Weavers (*Hyphantornis*) and the Textor or Buffalo Weavers.

(2) Birds of the cultivated or cleared ground round the towns; Whydahs and Weavers when out of colour, Bronze and Magpie Mannikins, Cordon Bleus and most of the other Waxbills, the Vinaceous Firefinch for instance being an exception, as this bird seems never to be found far from bamboo bush, though it frequents clearings which are in the neighbourhood of such places.

(3) Birds of the rice fields and long grass of the swamps;

Whydahs (especially the Yellow-backed) and Weavers when nesting and in full colour, some of the Waxbills, particularly the Orange-cheek, and I think that these places are also the haunt of the Silverbill, but this is such an unpretentious and retiring little bird that I cannot feel sure that I have ever seen one wild, though a few are generally to be found in the cages of small birds brought in by the native catchers.

The breeding season of all these birds, in Gambia at any rate, is during the rains, from July to October, but many of their nests may be seen all the year round, in trees, bushes, grass, or reeds, as the case may be, so well-woven from tough grass and so firmly fixed in position, that they withstand the violence of the fiercest tornado. During the dry season all the Weavers I have seen are quite out of colour, but among the Whydahs some individuals at least appear to keep the breeding plumage all the year round, as indeed they frequently do in captivity. I have often seen both Combassous and Paradise Weavers in full colour as late as the end of February, though by then some of the latter are without their long tails. The Bishops when out of colour gather in immense flocks, which during the dry season haunt the dry grass on the swamps or the patches left on the outskirts of the old corn fields; if disturbed the flocks rise with a loud whirr of many wings, and it is then that one of the numerous Hawks, which are always in evidence here, has an opportunity of obtaining an easy meal. Down he swoops at four or five times the speed of the flying swarm and picks out his victims from their midst, almost before they have realised the presence of a far more dangerous foe than the harmless man at whose approach they rose.

I will now proceed with my notes on the different species found in Gambia, and hope to give a short account of each, though I shall omit any attempt at detailed description of those which are so well known as cage-birds. First on the list come the Whydahs, five in number, four of which I know well, but have as yet never met with the fifth, the Red-collared Whydah, though no doubt it does occur here, as it is described from the adjoining French Territory of Senegal.

* * *

The Habitats I take from the British Museum Catalogue or from Shelley's Birds of Africa.

References to the work are marked by the contractions (B. M. Cat.); (Shelley) or (Sh.)

PLOCEIDÆ.

Hypochœra œnea. THE COMBASSOU.

Range. Senegambia. (*B.M. Cat.*)

Common in Gambia; an inhabitant of the native villages, one cock usually to about ten hens, or at any rate uncoloured birds, generally associating with the little flocks of Firefinches.

Nest, an untidy mass of grass, etc. stuffed into holes in the thatch or in the mud walls of the huts. Eggs white. Breeding season, about July to October, occasionally extended to December. Cock appears to take very little share in the business of nesting and feeding the young.

Cocks in colour July to December, but I have occasionally seen a full coloured cock during the other half of the year.

Native names for the cock when in colour. Mandigo, SANNAFINTONG or NYANNA-FINTONG (literally = Black Sam).

Joloff: KUMBASOOBAN. Evidently the origin of Viellot's name le Combasou.

Vidua principalis. PINTAILED WHYDAH.

Range. Nearly the whole of Africa. (*B.M. Cat.*)

Common in the Gambia, but not so frequently seen as the next species. Generally met with in the clearings round the villages. Cocks in colour, like the other Whydahs, from July to October. I have never found a nest, but this is described in Stark and Sclater's Birds of South Africa as being woven of fine grasses and suspended in a grass-tuft a few inches from the ground.

Vidua paradisea. PARADISE WHYDAH.

Range. Nearly the whole of Africa. (*B.M. Cat.*)

Common in Gambia. Generally in parties of one cock to six hens. Nesting season July to November. Nest, large domed flat-bottomed structure of grass suspended between two or three reeds by long grass stalks in the swamps, and generally built in groups.

Deserted nests found in swamp, McCarthy Island, November, and again at Lamin Koto, December 23, 1905.

Cocks in colour, July to October.

Eggs grey, very closely spotted with black. Joloff name, Lâro-Lâro. (*Sh. B. of Africa*).

Coliopasser ardens. RED-THROATED WHYDAH.

Range. South and East Africa, recurring in Senegambia. (*B.M. Cat.*)

I have never met with this bird in Gambia, though it must occur here as we are geographically but a narrow strip of Senegambia.

A wholly black variety with no red-throat is also known.

Coliopasser macrurus. YELLOW-BACKED WHYDAH.

Range. Senegambia to Angola; Equatorial Africa. (*Sh.*)

An uncommon bird in the Gambia.

In 1902 I saw an individual wild and had five examples in captivity, one of which is still (1908) alive in my aviary at home.

Jan. 06. I think I found two or three nests of this species in the swamps at Nianimaru. Nests like those of the Paradise Whydah but larger.

June 18, 07. Saw a cock just showing colour at Tuba Kollon.

1908. Saw two or three at end of the dry season near Bathurst.

They are practically always found in the swamps, and feed I think more on the grass and reed seeds they find there, than on those of the plants of the cultivated ground.

In captivity they eat a great many insects.

Pyromelana flammiceps. CRIMSON-CROWNED BISHOP.

Range. W.S.E. and N.E. Africa. (*Sh.*)

Common in the Gambia.

P. franciscana. ORANGE BISHOP.

Range. W. and N.E. Africa. (*Sh.*)

Fairly common in Gambia, especially near the sea, but not so frequent as the Crimson-crowned.

P. afra. NAPOLEON BISHOP.

Range. Senegambia to the Niger (*Sh.*) Rare in Gambia.

All the Bishops when out of colour go about in immense flocks in the dry swamps and on cultivated ground, and often swarm round wells and pools in the mornings and evenings.

When out of colour one cannot help noticing the marked resemblance there is between them and the English Sedge Warbler, as they flit about among the stems of the tall swamp grass.

Cocks in colour about July to December.

The earliest sign of colour I have seen was on June 5, 07. Most are out of colour by the middle of July, but occasionally I have seen one still showing some colour a little later than that.

The Crimson-crowned Bishops nest in the swamps, the Orange both in the swamps and among the standing millet.

In May and June 1907 I twice met with two or three Weavers about half coloured, in which the shoulder appeared to be yellow. They were certainly too small to be Yellow-backed Whydahs, and besides it was shoulders, not backs, which were coloured. They looked exactly like the South African "Kaffir Finch," but the range of that species can hardly extend so far north as this.

Quelea quelea. WAXBILL WEAVER.*

Range. Greater part of Africa. (*B.M. Cat.*)

---

* The Red-billed Weaver of the English dealer.—W. T. P.

Occurs in Gambia, but not nearly so common as the Bishops. I see two or three occasionally, and about the same proportion is found in the catchers' cages.

(To be continued).

Aviary Birds I have met in their Natural State.

By D. DEWAR, I.C.S., F.Z.S.

(Continued from page 246, *Vol. VII.)*

VI. THE ETCETERAS.

There are one or two interesting aviary birds which hail from the plains of India, but do not belong to any of the groups with which I have dealt. I should like to mention a few of these by way of concluding this series of notes.

The pretty little White-eye or Spectacle Bird (*Zosterops palpebrosa*) is one of the smallest birds found in India, being barely half the size of a Sparrow. White-eyes, except when nesting, live in considerable flocks. They spend the greater part of the day in seeking and devouring the tiny insects which occur in such numbers on the leaves of trees. Like all forest birds that hunt in company the individuals which compose the flock keep each other apprised of their whereabouts by a continuous cheeping note, a louder call being uttered when an individual has occasion to move to another tree.

At the breeding season the White-eye sings most sweetly. The ordinary cheeping note then becomes glorified into something resembling the lay of the Canary—far less powerful, but equally pleasing to the ear.

The nest of the White-eye is a wonderful structure. It is a tiny cup, sometimes very shallow, sometimes fairly deep, about two inches in diameter, suspended like an Oriole's nest, from two or three branches of some bush or shrub. Occasionally the nest is attached to the extreme end of a branch, so that it looks like a ladle, the branch being the handle. The little nursery is rarely found at a greater height than five feet from the ground. In it two, sometimes three, most beautiful pale blue eggs are laid. This is an exceptionally small clutch, and, as White-eyes appear to bring up but one brood in the year, it is evident that they have but few dangerous enemies. The eggs are certainly not protectively coloured, but the nest is small and is usually situated in a fairly dense bush, and placed low down so that it is likely to escape the notice of most of those creatures which feed upon the eggs of little birds. Further, the nest is usually attached to very slender branches and near or at the extremities of these, so that it would not be possible for any creature much heavier than the proverbial feather to obtain a foothold while attempting to rob the nest. Add to these the fact that the White-eye has a stout little heart and, when necessary, will attack a bird three times his own size, and we are able to understand how it is that, notwithstanding the few offspring they produce, White-eyes flourish like the green bay tree.

The Magpie-robin or Dhayal (*Copsychus saularis*) is one of my favourite birds. It is undoubtedly the finest singer of all the *common* birds of the plains of India. Its cousin, the Shama, excels it as a minstrel, but this latter is, alas! not at all common. It is confined to the best wooded parts of the country ; only once have I seen it during ten years' residence in India, and that was while shooting in the *Terai.*

The Magpie-robin, on the other hand, is found in every garden. Unfortunately this species sings only for a few months in the year. Its voice, while at its best, is melodious, powerful, and of great compass. The Dhayal spends much of its time on the ground. It nests in holes, by preference in a broken-down wall. I have on several occasions come upon the nest in a cavity in the mud wall of a hut occupied by one of the servants, who in India are housed in a corner of the compound as far as possible from the bungalow.

A very different bird is the Indian Roller (*Coracias indica*), universally known to Anglo-Indians as the "Blue Jay," although, of course, it is not a Jay at all. This species, owing to the fact that its upper plumage is of a dull hue, not unlike that of a faded port wine stain, does not look its best when at rest. But its expanded wings display a wonderful combination of Oxford and Cambridge blue, so there are few more beautiful objects than a Roller as it slowly flaps its way through the air. Because of the sudden transformation in its appearance when it takes to its wings American visitors to India call it the Surprise Bird. At the breeding season it performs astonishing antics in the air, ascending vertically, then dropping like a stone, to suddenly check itself and sail in circles, the while uttering its peculiar, harsh scream. Its habit is to take up a position on some conspicuous perch and there sit, often with its throat swelled out, and utters at intervals a sound like *tshock*. Suddenly it makes a dash to the ground, seizes an insect which its sharp eyes have discovered, and devours it then and there. This bird, like the Magpie-robin, nestles in holes, usually in decayed trees, but not infrequently in deserted buildings. One pair nested in the chimney of my bungalow in Lahore, and no words can describe the weird sound which emanated from that chimney after the young ones hatched out.

It is said that the Roller sometimes devours small snakes. It suffers much at the hands of man on account of its beautiful plumage. It has also the misfortune to be sacred in the eyes of some Hindus. At the *Durga puja* festival numbers of Blue Jays are caught in order to be liberated at a certain religious ceremony.

The Indian Hoopoe (*Upupa indica*), which closely resembles the European Hoopoe in appearance, is one of the most abundant birds in India. Four or five are usually to be seen feeding in every garden that boasts of anything in the nature of a lawn. This species uses its long Snipe-like bill as a combined probe and forceps to the great discomforture of those creatures which lurk a little way below the surface of the earth. It seems to feed all day long and with such feverish haste as to convey the impression that the hours of daylight are too few to allow it to obtain sufficient food.

Ordinarily its crest is folded up like a lady's fan, but this opens out whenever the bird is alarmed, and is always expanded during flight. The Hoopoe is no musician. His only note seems to be a low *ook, ook, ook*, usually heard only in the early morning.

Like the two species just described the Hoopoe nests in holes in trees or buildings. Sometimes the aperture leading to the nest is so small that it is not possible to squeeze into it three fingers at one time. The clutch of eggs is large and the young remain a long time in the nest. In the sanitation of this the parents seem to take no interest, with the result that the odour that emanates therefrom is sufficient to make the inhabitants of Cologne green with envy!

Finally, let me mention the very curious and beautiful Indian Pitta (*Pitta brachyura*)—an aberrant passerine bird having the body of a Quail and decked in the colours of the rainbow. The natives call it the *naurang*, which, being translated, means the "nine colours." It is a shy bird, not likely to be seen unless looked for. It inhabits brushwood. It seeks its food on the ground, never venturing far from cover, to which it flies the moment it catches sight of a human being. It is said to emit a cheery whistle in the early morning, but I have never heard this, not having hitherto had the good fortune to occupy a bungalow very close to the haunts of this species.

As I have dealt with a series of unrelated species in this chapter I have not appended a bibliography. All the works previously mentioned deal with at least one of the above species, most of them describe them all.

Miscellaneous Notes (1908) from the Ballywalter Park Aviaries.

By Lady Dunleath.

The past season has been a very bad one for the rearing of young in my aviaries, though nests have been quite numerous.

Quite early in the summer I found eleven or twelve nests which had been built by Canaries in bushes and ferns, these were all strongly and beautifully constructed nests. Only two or three were reared; the parents proving all bad feeders, the cocks apparently paid no attention to the young whatever and the hens fed but slightly, yet sat close, even after all the young were dead. Perhaps some member can suggest some remedy for this. *

The Cordon Bleus (*Estrilda phœnicotis*) have nested and fully reared a healthy and vigorous brood.

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* Canaries as a rule are most prolific when kept in cages; in the majority of instances when kept together in numbers, in either in- or out-door aviaries, rearing results are but small.—Ed.

The SPICE FINCH (*Munia punctulata*) has again been successfully bred in my aviary, one young bird being reared; the previous occasion being in 1905.

THE BENGALESE have successfully reared a few young birds.

COCKATEELS (*Calopsittacus novæ-hollandiæ*) have been very prolific, quite a number being fully reared.

SAFFRON FINCHES (*Sycalis flaveola*) have only brought a few pairs to maturity.

ZEBRA FINCHES (*Tæniopygia castanotis*) have also been prolific and there are now a good number of young birds in full adult plumage.

WAXBILLS have been very disappointing; Orange-cheeks, St. Helena and Grey, have all built nests and laid clutches of eggs, but no young have been reared.

THE DOMINICAN CARDINALS (*Paroaria larvata*) have never fully reared their young, though a good many are hatched out; they appear to get tired of feeding and the young are found dead, either in the nest or on the ground beneath [a pretty general experience.—ED.]

A Hybrid has also been reared, and I am rather doubtful as to its actual parentage; it is either a Spice Finch + Bengalese or Spice Finch + Black-headed Nun. I think it must be the former, as for several years they have nested and occupied the same box, but I never knew of any eggs being laid, neither have I at any time seen the Nun accept attentions from any bird. The total length of the hybrid is 4½ inches, it has a thick slate-coloured beak, exactly like that of the Nun, but is more the size and shape of the Bengalese; the head and throat are black, merging into chestnut brown; breast speckled (or scaled), white with blackish-brown crescentic markings; tail black; four flight feathers in each wing pure white; sides of body speckled similarly to the breast. I send herewith a few feathers which may help to identify it.

[I have examined the feathers sent, and while the black head, tail, and russet brown feathers of the sides of body rather point to the Nun having a share in its parentage; nevertheless, I think there can be little doubt that it is Spice Finch + Bengalese. The markings, etc., of the hybrid are almost similar to a pair I possess, and also to our esteemed member Mr.

Henstock's stock. Mr. Henstock has bred this cross freely and he presented me with the pair, which have been figured and described in Vol. VII. of this Magazine. Except for the above mentioned differences they are similar. It would be of much interest to note to what extent it differs after the second moult.—Ed.]

Another interesting fact is that NICOBAR PIGEONS (*Calænas nicobarica*) do not get full adult plumage till they are four years old, at least that is the case with the only young one reared in these aviaries four years ago; it is only now getting its white tail and adult plumage. I bought the parents in 1900 from Jamrach for £4; they were then in perfect and full adult plumage. They made their first nest in 1904 and reared the aforementioned young one—the clutch consists of a single egg. They have several nests each season and young have been hatched out at different times, but excepting the above all have died before being fully fledged. Up till this summer (1908) its plumage was a beautiful copper colour with very little green, and a black tail; now it is becoming green like its parents and has almost got the full white tail. The old pair have not nested at all this season.

I have now in my three aviaries, mixed series of: Pectoral and Zebra Finches, Canaries, Virginian Nightingales, Cockateels, Black-headed Nuns, Masked and Gouldian Finches; Waxbills in variety, Spice Birds, Cutthroats, Avadavats, Firefinches, Mannikins in variety, Ruficaudas, Bengalese, Bichenos, Nonpareil, Bulbul, Dominican and Green Cardinals; Red-headed Finches, Weavers in variety; Yellow-shouldered and Paradise Whydahs; Glossy Starlings; Pekin Robins; Budgerigars, and various Doves—152 birds in all. They fly about outside every day, but at night when the lamp is lighted they go into their respective houses and the doors are shut, but the windows are all left open about six inches, so that they are able to fly out of doors as soon as it is light.

Out in the Park are Rheas, Flamingoes; Sarus, Demoiselle and Crowned Cranes; wild African and Barred Geese; Ruddy and Common Sheldrakes; Whistling Tree Ducks; Garganey, Mandarin and other ducks, and various kinds of pigeons. The Rheas, Flamingoes and Cranes are driven in at night; they are all very tame and come when called to be fed.

One of my very interesting birds is a White Egret, very

The Cranes, Rheas, Egret, etc., at Ballywalter Park.

Photo by Lady Dunleath.

The White Rhea.

Cranes, Rheas, etc., at Ballywalter Park.

probably *Ardea egretta*. I have taken some photos while he was fishing for minnows (*vide plate*); he makes a curious croaking noise and is agressively tame. He amused himself soon after arrival by killing some of my Pekin Robins, when he was put for a short time into the aviary. If any of our members keep an Egret they must never allow him to have access to small birds. He is fed on raw meat, which he picks up out of the stream, and on soaked bread.

In response to your request I have tried to get some photos of the above birds, but January is a bad month for photography, and the exposures necessary have caused some movement to be visible in respective photos, but I hope one of them at least will be good enough for reproduction.

The birds are confined at night in a long shed, which is divided into six divisions. I give them no food in their houses, but when the doors are opened they all come out at once and make for their regular feeding place by the lake, to reach which they have to cross a stream; the Rheas, Cranes and Flamingoes wade through it, the others go round by the bridge. The Rheas commence by running wildly round in circles, the Cranes all dance, jump, and stretch their wings, and the Flamingoes walk with great dignity into the water. Their food is usually put on a table three feet high, to prevent the ducks eating it—as this would not look well in a photo, I had to get them accustomed to feed from the ground, this and the camera made them very suspicious, and, combined with the indifferent light, made taking their portraits difficult indeed.

We have had no frost here, but torrents of rain, and the wet has given the Flamingoes rheumatism in their legs, and this winter for the first time they have had to be taken into a heated conservatory, which contains a pool and fountain; as the result they have almost recovered, but are still slightly lame, whereas when they were first taken indoors one of them fell on attempting movement. I have had one for six years and he has never been affected by frost or cold, but continued wet they do not seem able to endure.

The Sarus and Crowned Cranes I have only had a month, they were very wild and timid at first, but are now quite tame and come close up to me, waiting while I prepare their food. The night of arrival the cock Sarus mauled the hen's head terribly and she was found the next morning with her head raw and bleeding; since then they have been kept separate during the night, but they roam together during the day.

These birds are in a Park a mile round, so they have full freedom.

Experiences of Foreign Bird Importation.

By R. Suggitt.

It was in the summer of 1906 that my friend Mr. A. Sutcliffe and myself first conceived the idea of importing a few birds for our own aviaries, and at this time an excellent opportunity presented itself, as a ship belonging to Mr. Sutcliffe's father was about to sail from Grimsby for Central America. We approached the captain on the subject, but knowing very little about birds and distrusting his ability to bring them over alive, he kindly referred us to Mr. Porter, the mate. Mr. Porter, seeing a good opportunity of relieving the monotony of the homeward voyage, accepted the commission without hesitation.

I may here explain that the "John" is a sailing ship and makes only two voyages per year; the average passage each way occupies from forty to fifty days; a month or six weeks is taken up in loading the cargo for home; and a similar time here for refitting, cleaning, etc. She usually sails to Cartagena, or Savanilla, Columbia, to discharge her outward cargo, and thence to Laguna de Terminos to load for home.

Laguna de Terminos is an island in the Bay of Campeachy, lying at the extreme South of the Gulf of Mexico, and separated from the mainland by a strait about five miles in width. The island is some fifteen miles in length, and from four to five in breadth. The water close to the shore is so deep, that the ship is taken up a small river and moored to the forest trees. A great part of the land is covered with rice and maize fields, banana and pineapple plantations; the rest is forest. The island is a bird paradise. Parrots and Parrakeets climb about the trees and in the ship's rigging—when they are not busy destroying the maize, Finches frequent the rice fields in thousands; Doves, frugivorous and insectivorous species are abundant. In the evening, before dusk, they congregate on the sides of the river to drink before going to roost.

The natives only value and keep birds for their song, Thrushes, Mocking-birds, and the better songsters among the Finches being the birds principally kept in confinement. The Olive-backed Thrush appears to be a special favourite, and justly so, for he is a sweet singer. It is just possible that this bird is a species or sub-species confined to the island, as the British Museum authorities do not appear to be at all familiar with it, and it is not yet identified. The birds are caught by means of primitive wicker-made trap cages. All captive Finches are fed solely upon rice in the husk.

The ship sailed in due course, and late in 1906 we received a letter from the mate informing us that he had about a dozen birds on board, which from the descriptions given, consisted of Nonpareil and Indigo Buntings, other Finches probably *Oryzoboridæ* or *Spermophilæ*, and a pair of Doves. On the voyage home, rats and the ship's cat accounted for all the Buntings and Finches. The Doves (which were large ones) were confined in very close quarters, but when the ship was well out at sea they were given their liberty. Often they made long flights, but like Noah's Dove, unable to find land, they always returned to the ship. They slept in the rigging, and came down on the deck to feed. When but two days' sail from England, their wings were clipped, and this proved their undoing, as both attempting to fly fell overboard, and were drowned. When the "John" arrived in port every cage was empty.

Mr. Porter, profiting by his experience on the first voyage, made the second attempt more of a success. His letter on sailing for home stated that he had "three brown birds about the size of Skylarks, two grey ones like Wagtails, seven small green ones, six small blue ones, and some small brown ones like Sparrows." His descriptions were delightfully vague, and one can imagine many kinds of birds to which they might apply. Out of this consignment fourteen birds reached us alive in June 1907. The large brown ones were the Thrushes I gave a short account of in volume VII. of *Bird Notes*, page 3; the grey ones proved to be a species of Mocking-bird, one of which reached us alive, the other being eaten by the ship's cat; the small green ones were young Nonpareil Buntings, five of which were landed, three males and two females; the others were Indigo Buntings, two males and three females, and an odd brown bird probably a Seed-Finch.

The next voyage nearly ended in disaster for the ship. After loading her homeward cargo, she drifted on to a sand bank, and although she was ultimately refloated undamaged, this accident prevented Mr. Porter from going on shore in search of birds, and he only brought six Buntings, three Nonpareil and three Indigo Buntings. A native who had caught about sixty birds, arrived a little too late with them.

Up to this time Mr. Porter had not attempted to bring other than seed-eaters and one or two of the coarser feeding soft-bills, but when he sailed again in March 1908 for Cartagena we asked him to make a speciality of Tanagers and other fruit and insect feeders. We supplied him with about twenty pounds of a soft food mixture ready for use. This mixture turned sour in the tropical heat, and had to be thrown away, but fortunately we also supplied him with some loose ants' cocoons and dried flies, fruit of all kinds is of course plentiful in the Tropics, and as the ship is the home of countless myriads of cockroaches, and several other kinds of creeping things, we expected at least a dozen species of beautiful Tangers, etc. new to aviculture. However, the ship only touched at Cartagena, and Mr. Porter had only time to make one hurried visit to the Market Place. He secured twenty-eight finches of various species, and six or seven Tanagers; while at Laguna, three Thrushes, one Hangnest and thirty-five "Dominicoes" were collected.

Few died on the voyage, most of the losses were through accidents and escapes. (Mr. J. Walsh, of Blackburn, has since made us some excellent cages which will reduce escapes to a minimum). In Mid-September the "John" arrived off Falmouth, and Mr. Sutcliffe received a wire "forty-five seed-eaters, five others alive." The ship had however to proceed to Bremen, Germany, and owing to fog and calm it was not until a month later that she arrived at Grimbsy with forty-nine birds, much too late in the year it proved to be for some of them. From Cartagena one blue Tanager (*Tanagra episcopus*), one Violet Tanager (*Euphonia violacea*) and fourteen Grosbeaks were landed, and from Laguna, two Olive-backed Thrushes and thirty-one "Domincoes" (*Spermophila parva*).

There is not much doubt as to the sex of the two Thrushes, one sings, and the other has a decidedly "henny" appearance. Both Tanagers were almost at their last gasp when landed; the Violet was minus one eye and died shortly afterwards, but the Blue has recovered and is now quite cheerful. The Dominico Finches were almost all young birds, fifteen of them were black and white, with traces of brown immature plumage; the remaining sixteen were brown with buff tips to their wing coverts. I say *were* because I made the mistake of caging them in an unheated bird room, where one after the other they died, until only nine were left. These were removed to a heated atmosphere; but it was too late. Only three now remain. We naturally thought that the brown ones were females, but our esteemed Editor, on comparing two of the bodies—one of each kind—with specimens in the British Museum decided that both were immature males. Mr. Page's taxidermist confirmed the sexing.

The Dominico Finch greatly resembles the White-throated Finch in the arrangement of its colours. It is said to be a sweet singer.

The majority of the Cartagena Finches—not yet identified—appear to be *Spermophila analis*. Roughly, their plumage is slate grey, darker on the upper surface and white from the centre of the breast to the root of the tail, flight and tail feathers black, with the characteristic white wing patch of the *Spermophilæ*. Their beaks are bright yellow. The rest are inconspicuous brown plumaged birds, members probably of the genus *Oryzoborus*. These Grosbeaks, although coming from a district several hundred miles nearer the line than *S. parva*, are much hardier; while the former do not at all mind several degrees of frost, *parva* cannot endure the temperature below 45 degrees.

Mr. Porter has gained much experience of bird keeping in these four voyages, and is almost as enthusiastic as ourselves.

He is confident of being able to bring any species over alive that he may be able to secure. He suggested that if he had the means of catching, and the knowledge of using the contrivances, he might be able to fill every available space on board the ship with birds. Thinking this an excellent idea we supplied him half-a-dozen trap cages of various sizes, a large tin of birdlime, and a piece of net some six yards in length and three in width, and gave him full instructions as to their use. Unfortunately this suggestion was made when the ship was almost on the point of sailing, and there was no time to get any of those admirable spring net-traps, which would have been the best and easiest method of catching a good variety of birds.

The "John" sailed for Savanilla on November 30th, is due there about the first week in January, and should be home again about the middle of May next. She has on board a good supply of seed, and all that is necessary to make a large quantity of "soft food." Mr. Porter has written to a personal friend of his at Savanilla asking him to see one of the native dealers about getting as great a variety of birds in true pairs as he possibly can. Mr. Porter has also promised to make copious notes of everything pertaining to birds and birdy matters that comes under his notice. We can now only wait and hope.

Parasitical Habits of the Silky Cowbird.

(*Molothrus bonariensis*).

By O. MILLSUM.

At the commencement of last summer there were a mixed lot of birds flying in my large outdoor aviary, comprising amongst others: Tanagers, Cardinals, Saffron Finches, Quails, Ruddy-shouldered Cowbirds, a most beautiful pair of Silky Cowbirds and about five pairs of Canaries. The Ruddy-shouldered were the pair that had bred the season previous.

Nest pans were placed around the walls to enable the Canaries to breed if they were so inclined. As the breeding season advanced several of the Canaries commenced building, but the other birds would disturb them and eventually pulled the nest to pieces. This did not trouble me a lot, for I was by no means keen upon breeding Canaries, and consequently I allowed the birds to have their own way, and was greatly amused at their antics, particularly those of a Scarlet Tanager who was a veritable destroying angel.

However, a Canary had built a nice nest high up near the roof and one day I thought I would see if the hen had laid, as she seemed to be fussing about a lot. There was an egg right enough, and as I could not see it and could only judge by the feel I thought what a whopper. Upon withdrawing my hand with the egg I could see it was no Canary's egg; then I wondered which bird had laid it, and why she should have done so in a nest other than her own. Then the thought struck me that it must be the Silky Cowbird (I felt confident it was not the Ruddy-shouldered, having seen an egg of these birds the season before) being aware of the Cuckoo-like habit of placing their eggs in the nests of other birds. Then referring to a description of the eggs of various species of Cowbirds and comparing the one I had there was no further mystery, for it was a Silky's egg right enough. I did not take notes or particulars of the egg, but from memory I should say it was about the size of an English Thrush's egg, rather long, and narrow, particularly at one end, the other end being covered with red spots or splashes, giving it quite a pretty effect.

Here was the egg but what to do with it was another question. To leave it where I had found it was to have it destroyed, or at any rate never incubated for the Scarlet Tanager above mentioned would not allow the Canary to sit for any length of time, and I knew sooner or later the Canary would get disgusted and throw the matter up. However, another Canary started laying about this time, and being caged, I placed the Silky's egg under her. She sat alright, and at the end of a week, upon trying the eggs strange to relate, the Canaries own eggs were infertile, but the Cowbirds was fertile. This was an extremely pleasant surprise for generally speaking the thing one wants most in birdy matters does not materialise. The next few days were anxious ones, fear that the hen would cease sitting or the egg would not hatch predominated, but I also began to wonder whether the hen would feed the foreigner, provided it came to life, and what would be the most suitable food to give her if she decided to feed.

The egg hatched on the fourteenth day. The colour of the flesh was a deep yellow, and this intensified the darkness of the eyes for they appeared to be too large for the rest of the body. Perhaps I should have said, what would have been eyes, for of course they were not opened. What the Canary thought of the stranger I do not know, but she decided to nurse her offspring, and I saw her feed it the first day. The second morning I examined the youngster more, and it was covered with a black down, considerably coarser than the down which young Canaries possess, and was lively enough, opening its mouth immediately one touched its beak, and it was no small mouth either. I had thought seriously of aiding the hen in feeding and this decided me, for apparently there would be no difficulty in doing so, With regard to food I gave the hen plenty of watercress and dandelion, and thinking the young Cowbird would want something more than plain egg food I soaked some ants' eggs and mixed with the food.

The hen fed freely upon this diet and I started hand-feeding with my own special soft food mixture, ground very fine and moistened to a pulp. For seven days the Cowbird throve and was getting too big for the Canary to cover, and my hopes ran high of successfully rearing it, when they were ruthlessly shattered, for when going into the aviary early on the morning of the eighth day, I was grieved to find the promising young Cowbird dead, or practically so, upon the floor of the cage. Possibly it had wriggled its way to the edge of the pan, overbalanced and fallen off, or probably the hen had dragged it off when leaving the nest. I tried my very best to revive the youngster, but to no purpose.

I firmly believe that the Canary with my help would have reared the bird, for a day or two later I should have taken the young one in hand myself and reared it as one would a young Thrush. However, should I have the good fortune to have a similar event with another uncommon species, I intend placing the egg or eggs in a nest of one of our English birds of as nearly the same habits, etc., chancing my luck with them, taking the young birds when they are nicely pen feathered. For instance, in a Thrushes' nest, and if I had placed the Cowbird's egg in such, I am convinced the youngster would have been reared. The incubation would have been all right, and the young alien would have had a plentitude of insect life, that great aid to the bringing up of young insectivorous birds.

Both the Silky and Ruddy-shouldered Cowbirds spoken of in these remarks have since passed into the hands of our esteemed member Mr. Hy. Willford, and I sincerely wish him every luck, and hope to read from his pen in some near issue of our delightful Journal that he has been successful in rearing both species. I should say the male Silky was an incessant songster, and to me at any rate his notes were rather pleasing.

Foreign Birds at the Crystal Palace.

The London and Provincial Ornithological Society held their Jubilee Exhibition of Cage-birds at the Crystal Palace from February 5th to 9th inclusive. The exhibition was well managed and the entry covering the whole was a record one, but, much as I would have liked to have noted some of the uncommon British Birds, the time at my disposal will only permit of a very hurried review of the more notable Foreign Exhibits. Mr. H. T. T. Camps judged the Parrot Classes, and Mr. Russell Humphries the remainder. The collection of Foreign Birds was an exceedingly beautiful and rare one, and it will facilitate matters perhaps if we review them in catalogue order.

BUDGERIGARS, LOVEBIRDS, ETC. Here were gathered together no less than five pairs of the beautiful and till recently rare Black-cheeked Lovebirds (*Agapornis nigrigenis*); there appears to be every probability that this species will breed as freely as Budgerigars, for several pairs have been laying in cages and dealers shops, and in more than one cage at the Palace there were eggs to be seen. I see from a recent copy of the *Die Gefiederte Welt* that this species is called in Germany the Brown-cheeked Lovebird, which is certainly a more appropriate cognomen than its popular name in this country. In one short year this species from being almost unknown have become almost common and will probably supplant in the near future in many aviaries the ubiquitous Budgerigar. There were also on exhibit five Blue-crowned Hanging Parrots (*Loriculus galgulus*), neither of which was in mature plumage.

1, Cook, Black-cheeked Lovebirds, in perfect condition ; 2, Watts, Blue-crowned Hanging Parrakeets, very fine, but still in immature p'umage ; 3, Maxwell, good Black-cheeked Lovebirds ; 4, Miss Greeven, Red-faced Lovebird, good colour and condition ; 5, Cushney, Love-birds ; vhc, Millsum Black-cheeked Lovebirds ; hc, Maxwell, Blue-crowned Hanging Parrakeet ; c, Robbins, Green Budgerigars.

PARRAKEETS, LORIES, ETC. Quite a number of exquisite and uncommon exhibits were gathered together here, and I refrain from giving any priority in these notes ; probably no two judges would place them alike. Black-throated Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus nigrigularis*), a beautiful and uncommon species having somewhat the appearance of a Swainson or Red-collar but with the head and throat bronzy-black, and a light green collar round back of neck. Black-winged Lory (*Eos cyanogenys*), a very handsome species which we hope to figure during the course of this volume. At the present time I only know of two specimens in this country, both in the possession of our members Messrs. Millsum and E. J. Brook ; it is a very beautiful species not quite so garish as many of the Loriidæ, its hues being deep and rich. Equally beautiful were Mr. Beaty's pair of Pileated Parrakeets (*Porphyrocephalus spurius*), which also were very rare in this country till the arrival of the consignment brought over by Messrs. Payne and Wallace in the spring of last year. Rock Grass Parrakeets (*Neophema petrophila*), were a beautiful pair of birds and of great interest, especially to those able to give breeding accommodation, in fact the whole genus are chastely beautiful and of great interest aviculturally, but very few come to hand and only at long intervals, and we fear very soon most of the species will be extinct. Other beautiful exhibits were Stanley Parrakeets (*Platycercus icterotis*), Violet-necked Lory (not yet in full colour), King Parrakeet (*Aprosmictus cyanopygius*), Purple-capped Lory (*Lorius domicella*) and a good Lineolated Parrakeet.

1, Maxwell, Black-throated Lorikeet, an exquisite exhibit ; 2, 4, 5, Millsum, Black-wing Lory, very rare and in finest condition ; 4th, Stanley Parrakeets ; 5th, Purple-cap Lory, very tame and good talker, a beautiful team ; 3, Beaty, good pair Pileated Parrakeets ; vhc, hc, Maxwell, good Rock Grass Parrakeet, an uncommon exhibit and an interesting species which usually seems to be hardly treated by the Judge ; hc, good Stanley Parrakeet ; c, Watts, nice young Lineolated Parrakeet.

ALL SPECIES OF PARROTS, MACAWS, ETC. In this class there was nothing calling for special mention save Rev. G. H. Raynor's uncommon and tame Meyer's Parrot (*Pæocephalus meyeri*), which very much resembles a Senegal, but is more quietly and chastely coloured. The following short account will probably be of interest:—It is a native of Equatorial Africa, and the description of the adult male is as follows: Head, neck, mantle, upper back, wings, tail and throat greyish-brown; curved band across the crown; band of wings and thighs bright canary-yellow; lower back, rump, upper tail-coverts, and remainder of under surface bluish-green: bill greenish horn colour; legs and feet blackish. The chaste harmony of colouration is almost beyond the power of pen to describe; the specimen described was in exquisite condition, very tame, and a female. Mr. W. Cook's Red-vented Parrots were a nice pair and in good condition, but we have seen richer coloured specimens.

1, Raynor, Meyer's Parrot, a beautiful, rare, and unique exhibit in finest condition; 2, Mrs. S. Bury, very fine Grey Parrot; 3, Mrs C. Cooper, good Black-headed Caique; 4. Archer, another good Grey; 5, Cook, nice pair of Red-vented Parrots, but looking a wee bit soft when these notes were taken; vhc, Miss M. Richardson, Blue-fronted Amazon; hc, c, Robbins, Grey Parrot and Blue-fronted Amazon.

COMMON WAXBILLS, WEAVERS, ETC. This Class always has a strong fascination for me, for I must confess to a great liking for the so-called common species, and though of late years the rarer species have crowded them out of my aviaries, yet I hope in the near future to again provide an aviary for them, for many of them are very beautiful and interesting birds. Unfortunately Mr. F. Howe's exhibits arrived too late for competition.

1, Townsend, Golden-breasted Waxbills, rich colour, absolutely faultless; 2, Hadley, good pair Diamond Sparrows; 3, 4, Row, Orange-cheeked Waxbills and Parson Finches, both in faultless condition; 5, 6, Botting, good pair of Zebra Finches and Diamond Sparrow, the latter being a large well-coloured and tightly-feathered bird, very hardly treated; vhc, Babb, richly-coloured pair of common Avadavats; hc, Maxwell, also exhibited a charming Green Avadavat and perfect pair of St. Helena Waxbills. Though small in numbers, this class amply illustrates how beautiful and attractive many of the common or freely-imported species are.

ALL SPECIES OF WAXBILLS, ETC. Our members' birds were again to the fore, and all were in fine feather and condition, but being* well-known species and most of them having been described in Vol. VII. of this journal we can well pass them with mere mention—Painted Finches,† Gaboon Weaver,‡ Melba Finches, Scaly-crowned Weavers,§ and a pair of the very rare Australian Fire-tail Finches (*Zonæginthus bellus*), these are natives of South Australia, and though reputed to be very delicate, those brought over last year with the Australian collection to the London Zoo, appear to have done well, and the pair herein commented on certainly looked very fit and were in fine condition. There were also exhibited beautiful specimens of Parrot, Gouldian and Crimson Finches.

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* ‡ See Dr. Hopkinson's notes on "Birds of Gambia," commencing in this issue.

† § See plates Vol. VII. *Bird Notes.*

1, 2, 4, 5, vhc, Maxwell, 1st, Painted Finch, a lovely pair of an exquisite species; 2nd, Gaboon Weaver, a beautiful bird of the well-known Weaver type with upper parts of rich velvety-black and under-surface of rosy-carmine ; 4th, Melba Finches, beautiful and richly-coloured and in faultless condition ; 5th, Violet-eared Waxbills, very richly coloured ; vhc, a lovely pair of Australian Fire-tailed Finches, a beautiful species with finely undulated plumage, crimson tail, and a pair of spectacles, a grand team ; 3, Mrs E. Galloway, an exquisite pair of Scaly-crowned Finches without a flaw ; hc, c, Row, good pair of Parrot and Gouldian Finches.

GROSBEAKS, TRUE FINCHES, ETC. The beautiful Black-faced Serin (*Serinus capistratus*) secured premier honours here ; this species is to my mind the most beautiful of all the Serins, is a good songster, and makes an admirable cage bird. It may be briefly described as being of a deep rich yellow on the under surface, sides of face and neck, while above it is olive-green, striated with darker green ; the ear coverts are black. An acquisition to any bird-room or aviary. Special mention must be made of the two *Spermophilæ* exhibited as a pair by our member Mr. Sutcliffe—these are very rare and are the first living specimens I have seen, though I have doubts as to their being a true pair. However the identity of the male is quite clear, viz., Slaty-grey Finch (*Spermophila analis*), and it is a first appearance on the Show Bench ; for further notes seen under Editorial in Vol. VII of this Journal.

1, Mrs E. Galloway, Black-faced Serin, an exquisite exhibit, rare, without a flaw, undoubtedly one of the most beautiful of the genus *Serinus*; 2, Maxwell, a faultless pair of Cuba Finches: 3, Cook, good pair of Indigo Buntings (in winter plumage); 4, Sutcliffe, Slaty Grey Finch, rather rough, or would have been higher; this we believe to be the first time living specimens have reached this country; 5, Miss St. A. Wait, nice White-throated Finch ; vhc, hc. Townsend, with his well-known Cape Rock Bunting and Diuca Finch ; c, Robbins, Yellow-browed Bunting, an uncommon and beautiful Bunting. Also exhibited Japanese Hawfinches, Green Cardinals and Olive Cuba Finch.

TANAGERS. This Class was worth a long journey to see and contained many rare, though well known to most aviculturists, and exquisite species, the only one to be able to claim the honour of a "first appearance" was Mr. Millsum's Black-cheeked Tanager, which unfortunately was still in rough plumage owing to not having completed the moult—for further description of this rare species (the only one in this country I believe) I must refer my readers to coloured plate and article in Vol. VII. (page 137) of this Journal. Mr. Maxwell's team of lovely and rare species were all in perfect feather and well worth their position, viz., Black-throated (*Calliste thoracia*), Emerald, and Red-throated Blue* (*Tanagra ruficollis*) ; the same applies to Mr. Townsend's Magpie and Tri-colour Tanagers ; other Magpie, Archbishop, Superb, Scarlet and Olivaceous (?) completes an interesting Class, less numerous perhaps than usual, but with all the exhibits of exceptional merit.

1, 2, 3, Maxwell, Black-throated Tanager, tight as wax, a glowing mass of iridescent colouring; 2nd, Rufous-throated Blue Tanager, not so gorgeous as most Tanagers, but a beautiful bird and in faultless condition; 3rd, Spotted Emerald Tanager, one of the most chastely beautiful of the genus *Calliste*, and, like the preceding couple, faultless, a grand team; 4, 5, Townsend, Magpie and Tricolour Tanagers, both well known and beautiful species, and as is usual with this exhibitor, both in finest condition; vhc, Mrs. P. Smith, Magpie Tanager; hc, Watts, Archbishop Tanager; c, Millsum, Black-cheeked Tanager, still in moult, and though a little rough, was certainly hardly treated, very rare, a first appearance.

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* See "Bird Notes," Vol. VII. page 263.

ALL SPECIES OF SUGAR BIRDS, ETC. Here were gathered together a fine series, all of high merit. We never remember to have seen a more exquisite specimen than Mr. Townsend's Yellow-winged Sugar Bird which which was absolutely faultless: his Black-faced Sugar Birds (*Chlorophanes spiza*) being a trifle rough, though a fine pair of birds, which have nested and laid eggs during the past season, and given a roomy outdoor aviary during the summer months would be very probable breeders: it is an exquisite species, much larger than the Yellow-wing, and would be a sight long to be remembered flitting to and fro amid living foliage. A single specimen of the same species was exhibited by Mr. Millsum, who also sent two fine specimens of Blue Sugar Birds. Two good specimens of the Gold-fronted Chloropsis (*Chloropsis aurifrons*), were also exhibited, one of which appeared to be the more uncommon Malabar Green Bulbul (*C. malabarica*), but the light being very bad at the time our notes were taken, a definite identification was hardly possible. It is perhaps not generally known what excellent cage birds the genus *Chloropsis* make, they are bold fearless birds, fair songsters, good mimics, while for handsome plumage there are few species to surpass them.

1, 2, Townsend, Black-headed Sugar Birds, not quite so fit as when at Westminster, and some thought should have given way to the second prize winner, one of the best Yellow-winged Sugar Birds I have ever seen, for rich colouring, tight and silken plumage it certainly has never been surpassed; 3, 5, Millsum, very good Blue Sugar Birds, which, after another moult, will be much richer in colour; 4, Maxwell, good Yellow-winged Sugar Bird; vhc, Mrs E. Galloway, Blue Sugar Bird; hc, Mrs Hodgson, Gold-front Fruitsucker.

ALL SPECIES. This Class to aviculturists is mostly the centre of attraction, and it has been many years since there were gathered together so many species practically new to aviculture. If it were not that several have been already described in this Journal, viz., Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler (*Pomatorhinus erythrogenys*), the Slaty-headed Scimitar Babblers (*P. schisticeps*), and the White-spotted Laughing Thrushes (*Ianthocincla ocellata*), all of which are figured and described in Vol. VII. ante pages 213, 214 and 289 respectively, my task would be an impossible one.

The King Bird of Paradise was a feast of beauty indeed and its condition was faultless. Not a cage bird was Mr. Burrows' Touracou, it was however in fine condition and deserving of notice, another bird not suitable for cage life was Mr. Cushney's Laughing Kingfisher, it was however in good condition, but appeared not to appreciate the confined limits of a show cage. A beautiful specimen of the White-capped Redstart was exhibited by Mr. Maxwell, it is very rare and was certainly hardly treated; it is perhaps not generally known how hardy these birds are, though undoubtedly very fragile when they first come to hand. A fine male of the perhaps rarer Plumbeous Redstart has been out of doors in my garden aviary all through the recent blizzards and is very fit and cheery, bathing in the worst weather as soon as the ice was broken and is altogether a very charming fellow. Another charming species I was glad to renew acquaintance with was Mr. W. Cook's Yellow-eyed Babbler (an ideal cage bird). We can only pass in briefest review the following: Rufous-bellied Niltava in perfect plumage,the areas of colour being very rich and pure; Blue-winged Siva (very rare), Mexican Green Jays, the mystery of sexual distinctions has not yet been cleared up with these birds, certainly the fine-crested bird of this pair was a female and from what information I can gather, I opine the male will be found to have the white frontal band nearly double the width of that of the female. Mr. Cushney's Indian Pitta was another uncommon bird which did not show off the brilliant areas of its plumage within the limits of a show cage. Mr. J. Dewhurst's veteran Mouse Birds or Coleys were looking very fit and clean for such species; bare mention of Mrs. Frostick's fine Sulphur-breasted Toucan and Mr. Millsum's very uncommon Rufous-chinned Laughing Thrushes must complete our notes of a Class that can only be termed wonderful.

1, 4, hc, Maxwell, King Bird of Paradise, truly a regal bird and looking better than ever, despite its two seasons on the show bench; 4, Rufous-bellied Niltava, an exquisite bird in faultless condition, with upper surface of black and glistening blue, and undersurface of rich rufous-chestnut, a typical Flycatcher, in form; hc, Blue-winged Siva, a very rare and uncommon exhibit, with plumage of soft browns above and ashy-whitish below, with larger wing feathers rich blue, a rare and interesting trio; 2, Burrows, the well-known Touracou, must be getting quite a veteran, plumage very tight and silken; 3, 5, Millsum, Slaty-headed Babblers, we believe a first appearance, handsome and interesting, but needing a larger cage in which to display their activities. White-spotted Laughing Thrushes—these interesting and quaint birds look almost out of place in a show cage, but even under these conditions are very handsome in their garment of browns and chestnut, relieved with white triangular spots at the tips of most of the feathers, very uncommon; vhc, Cushney, Pitta, an uncommon exhibit, which in a cage does not show the richer hues of its plumage, this specimen however was not in full adult plumage; vhc, Mrs. J. Frostick, Sulphur-breasted Toucan, in splendid condition, tight plumage and rich colour; hc, c, Cook, a nice young Yellow-eyed Babbler,very uncommon, and makes one of the nicest cage pets imaginable; c, Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler, another interesting and very uncommon bird, with a curved bill fully 1¼ inch long, and a pleasingly-arranged garment of brown, rusty-brown and white. Also exhibited Shama, Painted Quail, Laughing Kingfisher, Coleys, Black-headed Sibia, Mexican Green Jays—very beautiful, but evidently odd birds of two species, Glossy Starlings, one of the finest ever staged, Rufous-chinned Laughing Thrush, very rare, a beautiful but quietly clad bird.

I must apologise for the incompleteness of these notes, which have been written against time and practically without revision. EDITOR.

Editorial.

BANANA CRYSTALS. A welcome addition to the soft-food mixtures. Our esteemed member, Mr. O. Millsum, has recently submitted to me what he calls "Banana Crystals," and also uses as a complete food. I have thoroughly tested it and find it a most welcome addition to the soft-food mixture, supplied to the birds without any addition whatever; my frugivorous and insectivorous birds eat it greedily, and it certainly is a most wholesome groundwork for any soft food mixture; as such I have nothing but praise for it and it now forms one of the component parts of my soft-food mixture. It cannot be too highly spoken of as a food for Pollen eating birds. (*See advert. on back of cover.*)

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PUBLICATIONS. "The Biota of the San Bernadino Mountains," by Joseph Grinnell. The whole of the fauna of these mountains are exhaustively treated, it is sumptuously illustrated with photographic reproductions and coloured maps. The glossary of contents will indicate its scope:

Life Zones of the Region, with lists of the plants belonging to each.

Description of Localities, with special reference to the faunal complexion of each place.

General Considerations: A discussion relating to the Bird population and the conditions modifying it.

Some Plants of the Region: A list of important species with notes on their distribution.

The Birds: A List of 139 species found in the region, with a detailed record of distribution in each case, extended biographical accounts of many species, and critical notes on others.

The Mammals: A List of 35 species.........distribution, habits, etc.........

The Reptiles: A List of 20 species.........notes on food, habits and range.

A fuller review will be given in our next issue . . . . For sample copies, etc., apply Manager of the University Press, Berkeley, California, U.S.A.

Correspondence.

AN EXTRAORDINARY COLOUR CHANGE.

Sir,—The colour change in a hen Madagascar Lovebird seems to me remarkable enough to record. At the moult last autumn it changed completely, and instead of being all green it had no green about it at all. Flying about in a large outdoor aviary I could scarcely tell what colour it was, only that its back and wings seemed dark, its breast ruddy, and the whole plumage of a bronze hue.

Not until it died, which it did about a month ago (it had been in the aviary some years and was old, that is for a Madagascar Lovebird) had I an opportunity of examining it closely, then I found that the back was trying, as it were, to be black, the breast red, and the upper part of the tail feathers

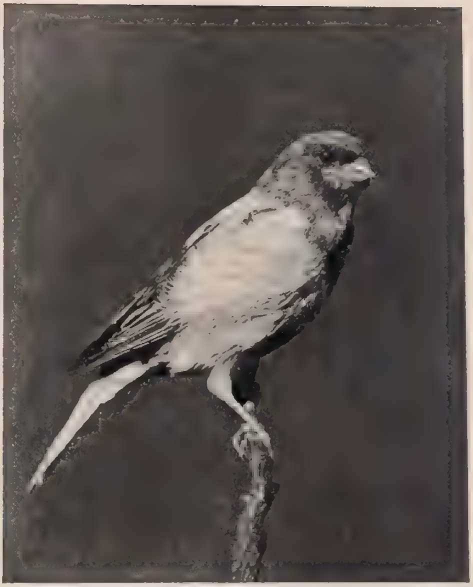


Photo by E. O. Page.

ST. HELENA SEEDEATER × CANARY HYBRID.

I find on comparing notes that the figure of this hybrid has come out so true, that there is no call for me to make further remarks save to refer readers to the notes on pages 46 and 295 of Vol. VII. of this Journal.—Ed.

orange. Surely a singular change in an all green bird! A few of the little feathers were *quite* black, *quite* red, and *quite* orange.

It would have been interesting to see what another moult would have brought forth; it was in good condition so far as flesh was concerned, and I wish it had not died. The cock, equally old, remains quite normal in colour. (Mrs.) E. A. H. HARTLEY

A PRIVATE CONSIGNMENT OF S. AFRICAN BIRDS.

SIR,—I thank you for your letter of 22nd February, and in reply to your request I send you the following list of the birds which I recently brought from the Cape, leaving it entirely to you to make use only of what you may consider of interest.

I arrived here on January 30th, bringing with me one pair and an odd male of Dufresne's Waxbills and a pair of what I believe to S. A. Ruddy Waxbills (*Lagonosticta rubricata*), though Mr. Teschemaker who now has them is of the opinion that what I take to be the female is some other species of Waxbill. I lost on the voyage an Orange-breasted Sunbird which I had kept in perfect health for a couple of months, but it died a few days after leaving Cape Town.

On the 15th February, I received between thirty and forty South African birds, which I had collected out there before I left. They consisted of the following viz.: ten pairs Red-headed Finches (*Amadina erythrocephala*), one pair and a male Alario Finch, four male Great-tailed Whydahs (*Chera procne*), one pair Red-collared Whydahs (*Vidua ardens*), four Pin-tailed Whydahs, and a young Yellow Weaver of which I do not know the species.

I lost a few Alarios only on the voyage, and with the exception of the Waxbills, the rest of the birds since their arrival have been kept under a closed glass verandah quite unheated and are all in perfect health. I think they may be safely considered hardy.

I will endeavour to send a few field notes later on. H. E. BLISS.

A HYBRID GRASSFINCH (CORRECTION).

SIR,—On page 292 of last Volume (VII.), lines 34 and 35, should read *like the Masked Finch* instead of "like the Cherry Finch" as printed.

As the Masked Finch's beak is very much larger than the Cherry Finch, I think the error should be corrected.

It may be my mistake when copying out. H. L. SICH.

Bird Notes from Far and Near.

My Clarino (*Myadestes townsendi*). From a Lecture by M. Hamecher, on the club evening of the *Rhein Vereins der Vogelfreunde* at Köhn, on 12th September, 1908, reported in the *Die Gefiederte Welt*, No. 43, October 28th, 1908, from which paper the following notes are compiled. We are also indebted to the Brit. Mus. Cat. for other references. M. Hamecher graphically describes that during a few free hours from his duties as Judge at the Great Berlin International Dog Show in February, 1908, he went to Elsässerstrasse, to Meister Schindler. After bearing testimony to the amiability and courtesy of Mr. S., he eulogises the cleanliness, and practical character of this gentleman's multiplicity of cages—suddenly his attention was arrested by the most lovely bird song his ears had ever heard.

> "I looked around and saw in a somewhat high place a beautiful, small dove-like bird. I was on the point of springing up for closer examination when Mr. S. checked me with the remark, please do not scare this rare bird, which I am taking care of for Dr. Zimmerman, of Berlin. In response to my storm of questions I gleaned the following facts. It is a Clarino, a Clarionet Bird which was sent from America amongst others this year, which were all offered to the Zoo here—two died on the journey and the remaining three, which the Zoo would not keep, passed into private hands—Herr Dr. Heinroth, Major Schiller and Dr. Zimmerman securing one each.........The bird is very tame and sings practically the whole day long..... going back to Köhn, there seemed something lacking in my birdroom—in fact, only a Clarino would now satisfy me.........I must have one at any price.......By an opportune correspondence with Mr. S. my desire was realised quicker than I anticipated, and by his kind mediation one of the aforementioned specimens came into my possession. Quickly I procured a cage with large bath attached and the bird moved in on July 14th, and on the next day, while I was getting my breakfast his fine metallic and melodious song delighted my ears.....he sings even better now in spite of being in the moult—practically all day.
>
> Character, deportment, etc.: Quite delicate, pleasant and modest in its demeanour—his abandon of joyousness is apparent as he trills his love song—one cannot assert that a superfluity of graceful movement is his attribute—he deviates herein very much from the elegant and coquettish Shama......like the Shama he is modest in his requirements [Thrush food]..... ... he prefers berries, grapes, apples, pears, and currants before anything else as a dainty bit... he gets about twelve mealworms daily and now and then a little raw meat.
>
> As to it's song Russ places him in the first rank and describes his song as sonorous, harmonious and clarionet-like......Capt. Bendierh describes his song as out of ordinary melodious, soft and of first merit, consisting of wonderful floating and clarionet-like tones without rhythm or unison, but with great variety and fulness. Maj. Schiller's accurate observation is—his song stands out original and beautiful in its clarionet tone—I should liken it to the ringing of stringed instruments one hears now and then in variety theatres......."

The above is purely a compilation and not a verbatim translation and has only been possible by the assistance of my brother Mr. E. O. Page. The following notes are largely got together by the aid of the Brit. Mus. Cat. and a skin. The colouring of the upper surface is principally dull ashen-grey, slightly variegated on the head with brownish centres to most of the feathers; the wings are mostly brown with the lesser wing coverts ashen; the median and greater coverts edged with ashen, the greater coverts narrowly tipped with white ; the quills have a patch of ochraceous buff near the base, the inner primaries having a second patch of same colour near the end of the feather ; two central tail feathers light brown, the remainder dark brown, the outer feathers having a wedge-shaped patch of white at the top : a narrow ring of white feathers surrounds the eye, loral spot black, ear coverts ashy grey, the sides of the face are splashed with rusty above the eye and blackish below ; cheeks and throat hoary grey; under surface dull ashy-grey, merging into whitish grey on the centre of breast and abdomen : thighs and under tail coverts ashy brown, the latter broadly edged with white. Total length 8 inches, tail $3\frac{7}{8}$.

The female is similar in plumage, but is slightly smaller and slighter. Townsend's Solitaire inhabits the Middle and Pacific Provinces of the United States, but does not penetrate far into Mexico.

The foregoing interesting account will have to suffice for the inauguration of this new feature of our Magazine, in our next issue I hope it will be of a more varied and miscellaneous character, and to this end I invite cuttings, notes, etc., from all our members; members residing, or having friends living abroad, can materially help us with this new feature, which I trust will be a permanent one. W. T. P.

The Month's Arrivals.

Our member, Mr. H. E Bliss, brought over a small but interesting consignment or S.A. birds about 10th Feb., including some male Giant Whydahs in full colour, a true pair of Red-collared Whydahs (*Vidua ardens*), and several pairs of Pin-tailed Whydahs and Red-headed Finches and a pair each of Dufresne's and Ruddy Waxbills. Our member must be congratulated on a quite unusual achievement, namely, that of bringing home a pair of *L. Dufresni* in quite faultless condition. The Ruddy Waxbill (*L. rubricata*, is an interesting species and seldom imported, though a common bird in its own locality. It is about one-half larger than the Common Firefinch, its body colour is brown, tail and under tail coverts so deep a crimson as to look almost black, and has quite a distinctive and easily heard song which commences with twittering notes and ends in a prolonged trill. This species is found south of the Zambesi. In the Transvaal it is said to be very fond of the ripening berries of the Australian Pepper Tree. The only other races of the Firefinch with which it is likely to be confused are *L. minima* : habitat West Africa, and *L. brunneiceps*, brown on head; hen profusely spotted on breast : habitat North and North West Africa. The two specimens imported by our member both sing and are probably an adult and immature male.

Mr. Bliss has cleared up one small question which has long been a puzzle to me, namely, why so very few hens of *Chera procne* are imported. He tells me that the males take up a conspicuous position in the breeding season on a bush (each male keeping to his own particular bush) and are therefore easily limed, but the females hide themselves in the long grass and so escape capture. W. E. T.

Our member, Mr. H. Robbins, has very kindly sent me for examination, one of the Yellow-browed Buntings which he recently imported. *E. chrysopterus* is a handsome species, reminding one of our English Reed-bunting in body colour and shape, but with a tuft of feathers above and below the eye of the brightest chrome. This specimen has several white primaries and it may be remarked that the Asiatic Buntings seem to have a tendency to albinism in the flights. Unfortunately all the representatives of this species that have reached this country lately have been males. W. E. T.

On 24th February, Mr. De Von received a consignment from the Continent of nearly a dozen Yellow-winged Sugar-birds and about thirty Javanese Hawfinches. The *Cœrebas* were a beautiful sight—all males in full adult plumage (except one immature male just showing a few blue feathers) and all in faultless condition. One may conclude that Sugar-birds are not delicate from the fact that when they were unpacked I noticed that, through merciless treatment in transit, the bottoms of the earthenware water pots had been completely smashed, yet the birds were apparently none the worse! Mr. Jamrach claims to have recently handled no less than thirty Sugar-birds, including several hens, so that we ought soon to hear of *Cœreba cyanea* nesting in outdoor aviaries.

The Hawfinches were also a nice consignment but the females considerably outnumbered the males. This species has been wrongly described by the trade as the "Japanese Hawfinch" and, inasmuch as *Eophona personata* is said to inhabit snow-clad ranges of mountains, several aviarists have made the mistake of turning them out in cold and exposed aviaries. It is, however quite a different species, and as a matter of fact I believe this consignment came originally from Manila.

We may distinguish the two species which are sometimes imported as follows:—

Japanese Hawfinch (*E. personata*) back grey, rump rufous, white belt on primaries: habitat Eastern Siberia and Northern China: Black-tailed Hawfinch (*E. melanura*) back chocolate brown, rump ashy-grey, primaries tipped with white; habitat Southern and Central China.

Mr. Thorpe imported some, nearly a year since, similar to *E. melanura*, but having the lower rump and lower third of primaries all white—probably a sub-species.

Mr. De Von has also lately received five rare Finches and some large Grosbeaks from S. America. The females of the former species closely resemble an English Linnet, but are rather more streaky on the breast: the males have a crimson rump, face and crown. One bird had the crimson rump but no crimson on the head and was presumably an immature male. These correspond well with the type of *Carpodacus mexicanus* but they may be a sub-species.

The Grosbeaks are large handsome birds, closely related to the Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Hedymeles ludovicianus*). I have not had time to look them up but I think they may be *Pinicola ecuadori* from Western Ecuador. W. E. T.

A large consignment of Red-whiskered Bulbuls are now on sale at three shillings a piece—the lowest price that I ever remember quoted for this species. There is, however, a dreadful slump in the foreign bird market at the present moment. W. E. T.

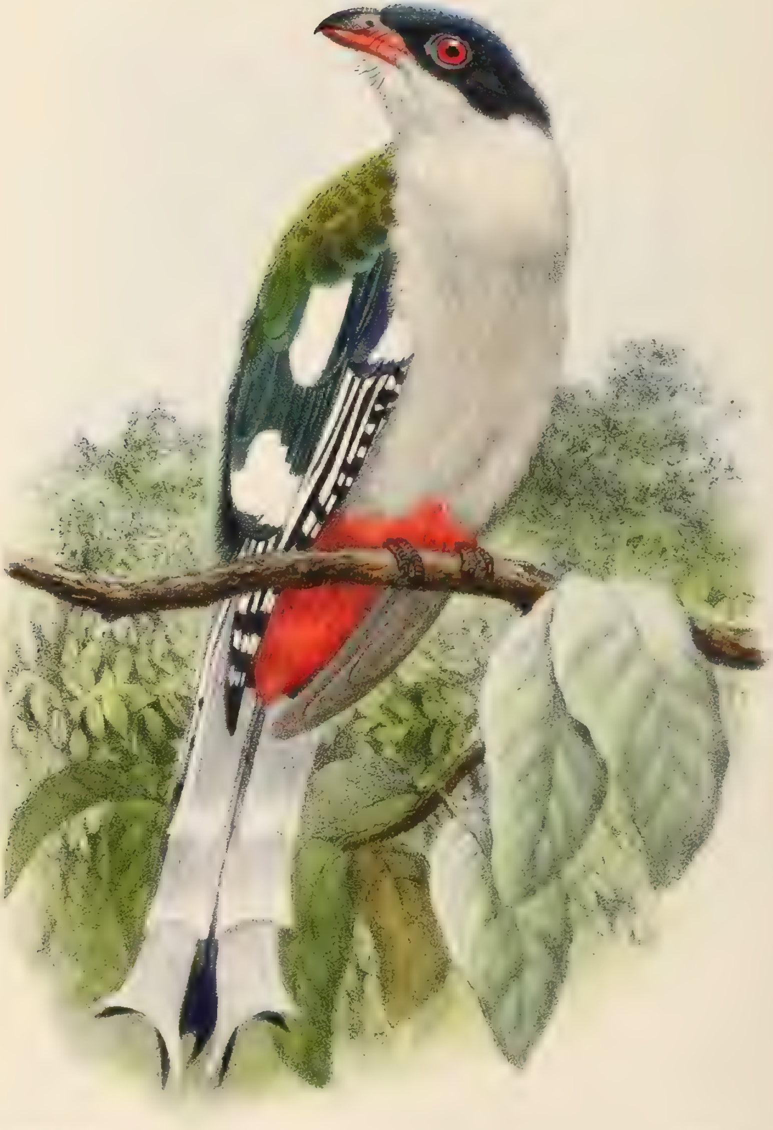
Mr. Jamrach has some nice Virginian Cardinals—these are now quoted at 18/- each in the German market—some Nutcrackers and four Albino Jackdaws. The latter are beautiful and interesting birds, whose origin has never been fully explained. Some are wild birds taken in the Austrian Tyrol, but I have a strong suspicion that there is also a domesticated breed kept in aviaries. W. E. T.

Post Mortem Reports.

(*Vide Rules*).

For replies by post, a fee of 2/6 *must be sent;* this regulation will not be broken under any condition.

PARSON FINCH. (Chas. H. Row). Inflammation of the lungs and bowels was the cause of death. There were no signs of an injury.



[illegible] [illegible] imp.

CUBAN TROGON

Prionotelus temnurus

From a living specimen in the possession of [illegible]

All rights reserved.]   APRIL, 1909.

BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Cuban Trogon.

Prionotelus temnurus.

By C. T. MAXWELL.

In response to your request for details, I fear these will be but few, as I feel quite out of my element in attempting to write an article, so am only sending a few notes. I am glad to hear that you are giving my Trogon such a prominent position in our interesting Magazine. I purchased it (the first living specimen of any species of Trogon to reach this country) in May last, when it was in quite a ragged and unkempt condition, having most of its tail and wing feathers broken ; it moulted late in the autumn, in fact it was scarcely through the moult when it was exhibited at the Horticultural Hall (L.C.B.A.) Show, in December last.

I found it rather a difficult bird to keep in condition, as its feathers were so very soft and it was also a very clumsy bird in getting about its cage. It was fed principally on chopped fruit, scalded sponge cake and mealworms; the latter were its great weakness and I am afraid the cause of hastening its death. The bird was a great favourite of mine and when it came to the wires of the cage to be fed with these delicacies I found it hard to refuse them.

I was never more sorry to lose a bird than when this unique and favourite bird died in February last, just before the recent Crystal Palace (L.P.O.S.) Show, for which it was entered.

* * *

By W. T. PAGE, F.Z.S.

Some rough notes on this species with a half-tone figure were given on page 264 of Vol.VII. of this Journal, to which I must refer my readers as several other very gorgeous species are there referred to. With the beautiful plate accompanying these notes, its beauty and interest will speak for itself and all that remains for me to do is to give a description and such notes of its wild life as I have been able to compile.

Description: Beak, upper mandible bluish, lower rufous-brown; crown of head a beautiful metallic violet-blue; all the remainder of upper surface a rich metallic green; throat, front of the neck and chest pale grey, almost white over the throat; abdomen and under tail coverts bright vermilion-red; scapulary and greater wing-coverts green, with a white spot near the extremity of outer sides only; the flights black (bluish under some conditions of lighting) with larger or smaller white spots the whole length of the outer webs; tail sharply truncated, the two central feathers having the inner webs green and the outer webs blue, the outer tail feathers bluish, tipped and spotted with white, with outermost feathers on each side entirely blue.

This beautiful species, is I believe only found in the Island of Cuba, and thus its popular name Cuban Trogon is more appropriate than is often the case; it frequents the forest regions of that Isle.

D. Ramon de la Sagra, in "Historia de la Isla de Cuba," says, that in their favourite haunts can be heard morning and evening, their plaintive song repeated at long intervals, similar to the two whistles "*to coi*," the first much stronger and important than the second. The natives of Paraguay say, respecting another similar species, that they cry in the morning to call the sun out, and in the evening because it is absent. Always alone in the big forests they lodge or roost on low branches, where they stay immovable for hours at a time, as if asleep and but little occupied with their surroundings; it is thus easy to approach and kill, and many are killed because their flesh is good.

Its food is small seeds, etc., which appears to be in contradiction to the form of the beak, which appears to indicate an insectivorous than a granivorous bird.

The above observations (*re* food) can be but partial, for the Misses M. and E. Kirby, in "Beautiful Birds in Far-off Lands," while in agreement with the above writer as to the ease with which they may be killed while dozing on the low branches, state that their principal diet in a state of nature is fruit, but that they take also many insects as well, capturing them on the wing, flying out in pursuit of a passing insect and returning again to the same perch—they also state that they have been observed clinging to the bark of a tree, Woodpecker-fashion, the male digging busily with his bill, while his mate sat by quietly watching; but whether this was for the purpose of excavating a nest hole, or to extract insects is not stated, most probably the former for these birds make their nests in some decayed tree and lay their eggs on the bare wood using no nest material. They often take possession of an ant's nest, enlarging and adapting it for their own purpose.

I am inclined to the opinion that this species would live longer in captivity, if, when it could not be given during the summer months quarters in a outdoor aviary, it were trained to come out of its cage daily and some of its favourite food were hung up at some distance from a branch,* thus forcing it to take it in a somewhat similar manner to their custom when at liberty in their native haunts. For birds of so indolent a demeanour the exercise would be most advantageous and probably lengthen its life very considerably; also to see this species on the wing would be a revelation of beauty, scarcely realisable by those who have only seen it in a cage, where apart from its rarity and beauty it gave the impression of being dull and uninteresting.

The Birds of Gambia.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

(*Continued from page* 9).

Q. russi. RUSS'S WEAVER.

Range. Transvaal, probably extending to West Africa. ? Gambia (*B. M. Cat.*). I have never seen this pink-fronted variety in the Gambia, but I am nearly sure that some of those I have taken home from here, have turned out to be such when their colour came.

Q. erythrops. RED-HEADED WEAVER.

Range. Senegambia to Angola and Equatorial Africa (*Sh.*) I have not met with this species in Gambia.

Nigrita bicolor.

Range. Senegambia to Volta River (*Sh*).

A small grey-black Weaver with dark chestnut front and under surface.

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* *i.e.* its resting place or perch.

Pyrenestes sanguineus.

Range. Senegambia to Sierra Leone (*Sh*).

Specimen from the Gambia in the British Museum. Head, neck and breast crimson, rest brown; large bluish beak.

I know neither of these birds.

Amadina fasciata. CUTTHROAT.

Range. W. and N.E. Africa (*Sh.*)

Found in Gambia, but certainly not common—occasionally seen caged, but I think I have only met with them wild.

Uroloncha cantans. SILVERBILL.

Range. W. and N.E. Africa. (*Sh.*)

Not common in Gambia, but there are generally one or two to be found in the bird catchers' cages.

Spermestes fringilloides. MAGPIE MANNIKIN.

Range. Greater part of Africa except the North-east. (*Sh.*)

Found in Gambia, but not common. Two or three were caught at Kow in January, 1904.

S. cucullata. BRONZE MANNIKIN.

Range. West and Equatorial Africa (*Sh.*)

Very common in Gambia. In thousands in Bathurst in June, often feeding in flocks on the roads and on the sand-dunes behind the beach. Always found in flocks. They appear to like the neighbourhood of fairly large trees, to which they retire when frightened.

Nests found in groups in fair-sized thorn-trees; perfectly circular structure of grass with a single chamber and side entrance, fixed to the end of the branches.

Eggs white.

I think they must breed nearly all the year round, as I have seen young birds in the speckly brown first plumage at nearly all seasons.

S. bicolor. TWO-COLOURED MANNIKIN.

Range. Senegambia to Cameroons (*Sh*).

Not yet seen.

Ortygospiza atricollis. QUAIL FINCH.

Range. Senegambia to Gaboon (*Sh.*)

I have never recognised these birds in the Gambia, but have occasionally seen small birds which I have believed to be this species.

Estrilda phœnicotis. CORDON-BLEU.

Range. W.E. and N.E. Africa. (*Sh.*)

Common everywhere in Gambia. In parties of twenty or more in the clearings and thin bush round the towns. Make untidy nests of grass in low thickish bushes, preferably thorns. Eggs white.

Mandingo name: Temmento-Kunundingo.

Estrilda cinerea. GREY WAXBILL.

Range. W.E. and N.E. Africa. (*Sh.*)

Distinctly rare in Gambia. I only had one among 800 Gambia small birds.

Estrilda subflava. ZEBRA WAXBILL.

Range. W.S.E. and N.E. Africa. (*Sh.*)

Fairly common in Gambia.

Estrilda melpoda. ORANGE-CHEEKED WAXBILL.

Range. West Africa. (*Sh.*)

The commonest Waxbill of the Gambia. Associates with the parties of Cordon-Bleus, etc. The two birds, too, frequently nest in company; the Waxbills making their nests on the ground in grass tufts under the thorn bushes occupied by the nests of the Cordon Bleu. Another very common site is under the shelter of recently felled thorn trees, which are cut down one year to clear the ground for farm making in the following season.

Estrilda cœrulescens. LAVENDER FINCH.

Range. West Africa. (*Sh.*)

Common in Gambia, and though not so numerous perhaps as other Waxbills, are much more noticeable, owing to their rather large size and greater tameness. They will flit about within a few feet of one's hands and seem to have but little natural fear of man.

They are common in the gardens at Bathurst, particularly during the rains, where they appear to find much of their food in the flowering shrubs, which also attract numbers of Sun-birds. Whether it is the nectar that the Lavenders seek or minute insects I do not know. At other times one sees them feeding on the ground on grass seeds, etc., with other Waxbills.

These Waxbills probably eat a larger proportion of insect food than most of the other Waxbills except the Firefinches, and this accounts in a great measure for the greater difficulty in keeping them in captivity. Even out here they do not live long in confinement, while in England I have found them even more short lived than Cordon Bleus; the latter out here appear to make hardy cage birds, and I know several which have lived for years on a plain seed diet, generally crushed native millet.

Lagonosticta senegala. FIREFINCH.

Range. West Africa. (*B.M. Cat.*)

Very common in Gambia. Every village swarms with them; tame and fearless, often roosting in the huts; very rarely seen far from inhabited places. Nest in the thatch of houses, in holes in the walls, rarely in grass tufts some little distance from any village. Eggs white.

I once had alive an orange variety of this bird, which I brought home to the Zoo.; evidently merely a sport. The ordinary red was replaced by a tawny orange colour.

Native names: Mandingo. Moro-Kunundingo.

Joloff. Ramatu (for this and other Waxbills.)

Lagonosticta rufopicta. SPOTTED FIREFINCH.

Range. Senegambia to Niger, Equatorial Africa and Upper Nile. (*Sh.*)

Distinctly rare in Gambia; very local; where they occur, are met with in company with Common Firefinches. Have seen more at a place called Nianimarn, 150 miles up the river, than elsewhere. Nearer the sea they do not seem to occur.

In size they resemble the Common Firefinch, but instead of being brick-red, the cocks are a pinky red, with very distinct white spots or bars on the sides of the breast. The eye-ring is pale blue-grey, and not yellow as in *L. senegala.*

The young are very like the young Common Firefinches, but the earliest signs of colour are a pinkish tinge and the bill too is pinker.

Lagonosticta vinacea. VINACEOUS FIREFINCH.

Range. Senegambia. (*Sh.*)

Not uncommon in Gambia but very local. Are much more birds of the bush than the other Firefinches; go about in small parties and are especially fond of bamboo thickets; I cannot remember ever meeting with them far from such places.

I have had a good many of these two species in captivity, and found both of them distinctly hardier than the common species.

The male is a puce-coloured bird with a black face, the hen the same colour but rather paler, without any black on the face. We had an excellent plate of the species in Vol. III. of *Bird Notes.*

Pytelia phœnicoptera. AURORA FINCH.

Range. W. and N.E. Africa. (*Sh.*)

Rather uncommon in Gambia, and very locally distributed. Even where they occur are not often met with, as they are most retiring birds, and prefer thicker bush and higher trees (where they also nest) than the Waxbills. I once got ten, all caught in one place, where I was stationed six months without ever seeing a single specimen wild.

Pytelia citerior. MELBA WAXBILL.

Range. N.E. Africa to Senegambia. (*Sh.*)

I have never met the species in the Gambia.

Spermospiza hæmatina.

Range. West Africa, Senegambia to Abeokuta. (*Sh.*)

The cock is a black bird with a red breast about the size of Crimson-crowned Bishop.

Sporopipes frontalis. BEARDED SCALY-FRONTED FINCH.

Range. Senegambia to N.E. Africa. (*Sh.*)

A small pale brown bird with a patch of black and white speckles on the forehead. There were some specimens from S. Africa in the Zoo this year. (Vide plate *Bird Notes*, vol. VII., p. 265).

I have never yet met with them in Gambia.

Textor senegalensis. OXBIRD.*

Range. Senegambia.

Common in the Gambia. A largish black Weaver with white edgings to the wings.

Their nests are very striking; large masses of twigs occupied by several families, whose eggs are laid at the bottom of tunnels driven into the mass of twigs, etc. which form the nest. Whenever I have seen their nest they have been in large trees growing in certain villages, never outside in the bush. Sometimes in the upper part of a large cotton tree are found Marabout Stalks nesting, while lower down are the dwellings of the Oxbirds, the latter belonging to comparatively small birds being larger and stronger than those of the large storks above them.

The hen is exactly like the cock, but the colour of the young is a rusty brown.

Where they occur these birds are quite common, but their nesting sites are decidedly local, I only know about half a dozen places where their nests are to be seen.

The two following species are found in Senegambia, but are not known to me.

Ploceipasser superciliosus, a brown Bunting-like Weaver.

Anaplectes melanotis, a red-headed Weaver, dark brown above and whitish below.

Hyphanturgus brachyterus.

Range. Senegambia to Gaboon. (*Sh.*)

Specimens from the Gambia in the British Museum. Although I must have seen this species, I have never actually identified it here. Though there are at least six "Yellow Weavers" likely to be found in the Gambia, I actually only know three species.

Sitagra luteola.

Range. Senegambia to N.E. and Equatorial Africa. (*Sh.*)

Smaller than the other Yellow Weavers; the black of the face in the adult cock only covers the front half of the crown, the side of the face and upper throat. Bill rather more slender than that of *Hyphantornis.*

I am almost sure that it is this species which breeds in such numbers all up the banks of the river during the rains. The nests are made of coarse grass suspended in groups in bushes (generally thorns) over the water and only accessible by boat.

In shape they are like a stumpy retort with a woven perch between the turned down entrance and the egg chamber; the latter is lined with a little fine grass and a few feathers.

The eggs are white, rather long and oval in shape.

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* See under Editorial, page 54 of this issue.

When building operations are in progress the banks of the river are alive with these birds, all chattering at once, as they fly in and out with grass stems, and vie with each other in the actual work of weaving the nests.

They are in colour from July to December, a few showing few signs till about February. When out of colour during the dry season they go about in large flocks in the koos-fields, but I think a great many leave the country then, returning to the river to breed at the proper season.

I once had a small Yellow Weaver, much smaller than these birds, no larger than a Green Singing Finch. I never found out to what species it belonged.

Hyphantornis vitellinus. HALF-MASKED WEAVER.

Range. Senegambia to N.E. and Equatorial Africa. (*Sh.*)

I have seen this bird occasionally among those brought to Dakar (in Senegal) by the bird-catchers there, but never to my knowledge in Gambia.

H. melanocephalus. BLACK-HOODED WEAVER.

Range. Senegambia to Congo. (*Sh.*)

Common in the Gambia. Nest in thorn trees about 8-10 feet from the ground; not usually over water as is the case with *Sitagra.* Very common near Bathurst.

H. heuglini.

Range. Gambia to the Niger. (*Sh.*)

One specimen in the British Museum from the Gambia. I do not know the bird here.

H. cucullatus. RUFOUS-NECKED WEAVER.

Range. Senegambia to Gaboor. (*Sh.*)

Our largest Yellow Weaver; very common; nest in the tall Rhun-palm trees, the whole top of one of these often being a mass of their untidy grass nests. These colonies of nests are generally in or quite near villages, where the birds make very noisy neighbours with their constant chattering and quarrels over nesting sites and materials.

One cock I have at home has never lost his colour during the four years I have had him. I do not know whether this is the case with the other Yellow Weavers.* I cannot remember ever seeing one of these in colour during the dry season, but then they are much less common here than during the breeding season. My earliest note regarding their colour is, "May 30, '07, Albreda, some beginning to show colour;" and the latest, "Jan. '08, Jennak, large flocks of some Hyphantornis, mostly half-colour.

The Yellow Weavers are all known here as "Palm-birds." When fat, at harvest-time, they are sometimes eaten, and make splendid "larks" or "ortolans" on toast, which ever one likes to call them. They are but rarely caught alive, and then only by small boys with hair nooses, never by the regular netters. The Mandingo name for all the Yellow Weavers is Katcho (=Chatterer).

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* All the species of *Hyphantornis* I have had in my outdoor aviary have regularly gone out of colour each December.—Ed.

The differences between the cocks of the Gambia *Hyphantornes* may be tabulated as follows. The hens are almost impossible to distinguish.

Throat with black confined to upper half; crown yellow; a little rufous behind black forehead—*vitellinus.*

Throat with black extending to crop.

Entire forehead and crown yellow—*heuglini.*

Entire head and throat black, *not* margined with chestnut—*melanocephalus.*

Entire head and throat black margined with chestnut—*cucullatus,* the largest Gambian species.

Sitagra smaller, marked like *melanocephalus.*

More help in diagnosing the species may be gained from the amount of chestnut present.

No chestnut—*melanocephalus* and *Sitagra.*

A narrow margin of chestnut, below throat-black—*heuglini.*

A little chestnut on crown and edge of throat-black—*vitellinus.*

Rich chestnut on nape and margining the black throat—*cucullatus.*

Cinnamopteryx castaneofusca.

Range. Senegambia to Congo. (*Sh.*)

A black and chestnut Weaver I have never yet met in the Gambia.

FRINGILLIDÆ.

The Gambian representatives of the family are seven in number, among which are two common cage-birds, the Green and the Grey Singing Finches.

Serinus hartlaubi. GREEN SINGING-FINCH.

Range. West Africa.

Very common in Gambia. Generally in pairs or small parties, but often during the dry season met with in quite large flocks feeding on the ground in the clearings. They are caught in and near Bathurst in large quantities during and just after the rains. The catchers' cages then contain hardly anything but Serins, nearly all green with about 2 % of Grey Singing Finches among them. These are the only native birds commonly kept as cage-birds in this country, and are here popularily called "Canaries."

They build open cup-shaped nests in gardens or thorn bush, composed outwardly of plaited grass lined with a felted layer of fine grass, hair and feathers.

Eggs pale blue with a few brown spots at larger end.

Serinus leucopygius. GREY SINGING FINCH.

Range. Senegambia to Abyssinia. (*Sh.*)

Fairly common in Gambia, but rarer than the preceding. Seems more common in the Upper River than nearer the coast, and to prefer the more sandy districts.

Breed, like the Green Singing Finch, from about May to September. Generally plenty of young birds about by October.

Poliospiza canicapilla.

Range. Senegambia to the Niger. (*Sh.*)

Rare in Gambia. I have had three specimens alive, one of which is now in the Zoo, and seen perhaps a dozen others. Generally in company with the two Serins and Sparrows.

It is an unpretentious little grey bird, rather larger than a Singing Finch, with two or three black longitudinal stripes on its head.

Passer diffusus, GREY-HEADED SPARROW.

Range. Africa, south of 17° N. lat. (*Sh.*)

Common in Gambia. Seen in most villages associating with Fire-finches, etc., or in the fields outside with Cordon-Bleus, Weavers and others. Among the flock of Rock-Sparrows so numerous in Niumi one or two of the Grey-headed Sparrows are generally to be seen. They are rather shy birds and have none of the impudence of their English relatives.

Breed in holes in walls or grass roofs, making very untidy nests of grass, wool, or other material.

Eggs mottled pale buff.

Petronia dentata. LESSER ROCK-SPARROW.

Range. North Tropical Africa, between 9 and 18° N. latitude. (*Sh*).

Common in Gambia, especially near the sea. Large flocks often seen feeding on the sandy ground.

The adult has a small yellow throat spot and an entirely grey head; the latter in the young being a light brown (like the back) with a sandy buff eyebrow. In some I took home I was able to watch this change of plumage during the time they have lived in my aviary.

I have never found the eggs, which are described as pure white.

They have two or three rather sweet notes, but can hardly be called "singers."

Emberiza affinis. GOLDEN-BREASTED BUNTING.

Range. Senegambia, White Nile, Sennaar. (*Sh.*)

This handsome Bunting must be very rare in Gambia as I have only seen it on two occasions, once in 1904 when I came across two or three of them feeding in the thorn bushes in company with Cordons, Sparrows and Combassous, and again in 1907, when I saw a single specimen.

In size it is rather smaller than a Yellowhammer, its whole under surface bright yellow; head black with five longitudinal streaks.

Fringillaria septemstriata. RED-WINGED ROCK-BUNTING.

Range. Senegambia to Niger and Abyssinia. (*Sh.*)

A brown Bunting with black head marked with seven white bands.

I have never seen the bird in the Gambia.

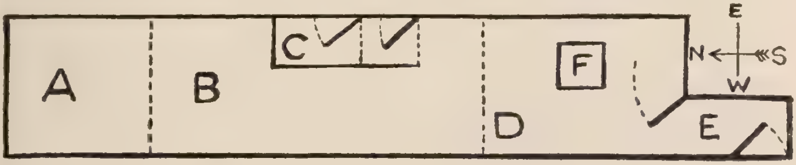
(*To be continued*).

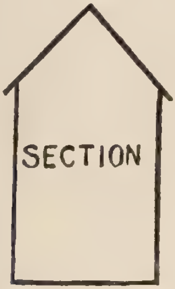
Mrs. Anningson's Finch Aviary, etc.

By W. T. Page, F.Z.S.

Following the account of the fine series of Parrots, Cockatoos, etc. given in Vol. VII. I cannot close the account of my visit without some remarks on the palatial and well arranged Finch aviary and its inmates. A photo of this aviary appeared in Vol. III., but for the guidance of recent members the ground plan is again reproduced, as it will assist in making the following description more intelligible and practical.

I may briefly say that though this aviary was a costly one, yet one equally effective could be constructed on similar lines by any intelligent amateur carpenter at quite a moderate cost—neither are prospective aviary builders tied down to the same size, but the proportions of shelter, partial shelter and open flight are well worth emulation. The structure is a very handsome and well finished one—34 feet long, 6 feet wide, and 7 feet high at the eaves, standing on a bed of concrete 12 inches thick. It is divided into three sections: shelter 6 feet, covered flight 17 feet, open flight 11 feet. The entire back and north end is close boarded; the front and south end is covered with half-inch mesh wire-netting; the roof has 6 feet boarded and felted, 17 feet covered with corrugated iron sheets and the remaining 11 feet with half-inch mesh netting. The whole of the front is fitted with glazed shutters outside the wire netting, fitting closely into rebates and draught proof, so that, in severe weather, when these are shut the aviary is entirely enclosed, and all its inmates have to combat with is the low temperature. With such arrangements it seems almost superfluous to say that its occupants were in the best of health and condition, giving ample evidence that not only had they a sumptuous dwelling, but that they were also the recipients of careful attention; without the latter the best arranged and most





A. *Shelter shed 6ft. × 6ft.*
B. *Covered flight 17ft. × 6ft.*
C. *Isolation enclosures for larger species.*
D. *Open Flight 11ft. × 6ft.*
E. *Vestibule.*
F. *Hollow in concrete floor, forming bath, with waste pipe.*

palatial aviary would be a failure, and with such some of the most simple and crude structures have given excellent results. The portions of the structure not yet indicated consisted of well-made framing built up of 2-inch quartering and 1-inch tongued and grooved match-boarding.

The occupants are many, interesting and varied. The following were the more prominent: Glossy Starlings; Pekin Robins; Giant, Shaft- and Pin-tailed Whydahs; Scarlet and other Tanagers; White and Grey Java Sparrows; Magpie and other Mannikins; Fire, Diamond, Ribbon, Gouldian, Zebra, Ruficauda, Quail, and other Finches; Grenadier, Orange and Madagascar Weavers; Zebra, Orange-cheek, St. Helena and other Waxbills; Bengalese; Spice Birds; Common and Green Avadavats; Cape, Peaceful, Zebra and Diamond Doves; Yellow and Green Budgerigars; Red-faced, Peach-faced, Madagascar, and Black-cheeked Lovebirds; Quails; Canaries; Virginian and other Cardinals. Also the following British species: Redpoll, Linnet, Yellow Bunting, Blue Tits, Blackcaps, Wagtails, Bramblings, Wrens, Gold- and Bull-finches, and many others. All the above were flying together in perfect harmony, except the Glossy Starlings, which occupied the enclosure marked C on ground plan, this enclosure is lighted by windows on the east side or back of aviary. It certainly needs no words of mine to point out how charming was such a display, or how continuous a source of pleasure, interest, and care, such an avian family must be. Mrs. Anningson is the fortunate possessor of an intelligent maid, who appeared to be very interested in the birds, and an able assistant in the care of so large and varied a series.

In spite of the variety, though Mrs. Anningson has shared the general experience of most aviculturists in 1908 being a bad year for breeding results, yet there are mostly a good number of young birds reared annually, but the birds have ample space and are not in the least crowded, though the list enumerated in these notes is not by any means a full one.

I must also note, in passing, Dr. Anningson's two fine ♂ Magpies, occupying a long flight with some Pheasants, having ample space to exercise their wings; it was an ornithological treat to watch these fine birds —not a feather out of place and as clean as if in the full enjoyment of liberty, with their plumage glossed with a satin-like lustre. Those who are apt to speak of our avifauna as plainly clad, etc., in comparison with the birds of tropical climes, would need to recall their words after watching for half an hour these two grand and animated specimens of British feathered life.

Lastly, I must briefly describe the Peach-faced Lovebird aviary. This is an octagonal structure, built on the same plan as the one already described, and can either be entirely closed or open according to the weather. Here amid a mass of Fir and Box branches (frequently renewed) were a dozen or more of this exquisite species; one or more nests were in existence with birds incubating, but it was very late in the season, and I am doubtful as to whether they would yield any result.

Since my visit, of which the record is now closed, another aviary on similar lines, constructed of double boarding, with felt between, and the same arrangement of glazed shutters has been constructed as a Tanager aviary, but this must form another story, as I hope to see it at no distant date.

In conclusion, for the benefit of our members, I would ask Mrs. Anningson to kindly give some details of her methods of feeding and treatment, and also to recall some nesting experiences for the general good.

The Birds of India.

By DOUGLAS DEWAR, I.C.S.

[A Lecture delivered before the Indian Section of the Royal Society of Arts, and reproduced by kind permission of the Author and R.S.A.]
From the Journal of the Royal Society of Arts.

(*Continued from page* 289, *Vol. VII.*)

THE CHARM OF BIRDS.

Mr. W. H. Hudson quotes Sir Edward Grey as saying that the love and appreciation and study of birds is something fresher and brighter than the second-hand interests and conventional amusements in which so many in these days try to live; that the pleasure of seeing and listening to them is purer and more lasting than any pleasures of excitement, and, in the long run, "happier than personal success."

Only those who have come under the sway of the charm of birds can appreciate to what an extent the *joie de vivre* is enhanced by an acquaintance with them. Interest in the feathered hosts, when once aroused in a man, will never flag or wane. Rather will it grow in intensity with advancing years, so that many a man as

> "Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day,"

has been able to say, with the late Mr. R. Bosworth Smith, "Birds have been to me the solace, the recreation, the passion of a life time." It is not easy to describe in words the nature of the enduring happiness which the love of birds gives. This must, of necessity, vary with temperament. Says Gilbert White:

> "To yonder bench, leaf-shelter'd, let us stray,
> Till blended objects fail the swimming sight,
> And all the fading landscape sinks in night;
> To hear the drowsy dor come brushing by
> With buzzing wing, or the shrill cricket cry;
> To see the feeding bat glance through the wood;
> To catch the distant falling of the flood;
> While o'er the cliff th' awakened churn-owl hung
> Through the still gloom protracts his chattering song;
> While high in air, and pois'd upon his wings,
> Unseen, the soft enamour'd woodlark sings:
> These, Nature's works, the curious mind employ,
> Inspire a soothing, melancholy joy:
> As fancy warms, a pleasing kind of pain
> Steals o'er the cheek, and thrills the creeping vein."

There are occasions on which watching birds has inspired in me "a soothing, melancholy joy." But, as a rule, the pleasure which the feathered folk give me, is of a more lively and exhilarating nature, not infrequently culminating in mirth and laughter. For this, the birds of India are largely responsible. As I have said elsewhere, the man who can watch the doings of the Indian Crow for half an hour without being provoked to laughter should, without delay, apply for six months' leave on medical certificate.

I am sometimes asked, Wherein lies the attraction of birds?

The reply is: "In their sprightliness, their vivacity, their beauty, and their grace." As Mr. F. W. Headley justly observes, "a bird seems to have more life in him than any other living creature."

In a sense birds stand at the head of creation. It is on them that nature has showered a double portion of her good things. Their power of flight gives them a big advantage over their terrestrial fellow-creatures. "Birds," wrote Professor Newton, "have no need to lurk hidden in dens, or to slink from place to place under the shelter of the inequalities of the ground or of the vegetation which clothes it, as is the case with so many animals of similar size." This locomotive superiority, although it must add greatly to the happiness of the life of a bird has not been all gain. Animals are so constituted that it is only through intense struggle that they advance towards perfection. The fowls of the air, safe in their power of flight, have not been obliged to use their wits to the extent that terrestrial creatures have. Instead of developing a large brain, they have dissipated their energy in flight, song, and gorgeous plumage. Birds form a backwater in the stream of evolution.

THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF BIRDS.

I have already dwelt upon the richness of the avifauna of India. It is this wealth in number and variety of species which makes it so valuable to the biologist.

Grant Allen has said somewhere that there is no university like the tropics, that no man can be said to be properly educated who has not passed the tropical tripos.

It is significant that the idea of natural selection came to both Darwin and Wallace in the tropics. This great hypothesis revolutionised biology. But since Darwin's day the science has made comparatively little progress. This appears to be in great part due to the comparative poverty of the European fauna. The Americans are more fortunate in this respect. But in the New World the progress of biological science has been greatly hindered by the prevailing belief in America, not only that acquired characteristics are capable of inheritance, but that their inheritance has played an important part in evolution.

Whether or no the explanations I suggest are the correct ones, the fact remains that of late years biology has made progress commensurate with the impetus given it by the publication of Darwin's "Origin of Species."

Nearly half a century ago Jerdon wrote in the introductory chapter to his "Birds of India":—"The tendency of the present age is to accumulate facts, and not to generalise, but we have now a sufficiency of facts, and want our Lyall to explain them."

Since Jerdon's day things have changed. At present we are almost overwhelmed by theories. Many of these possess little or no value because they are founded on an insufficient basis of fact. Day by day fresh theories are published which would not have been enunciated had their originators graduated in the University of the Tropics.

As an example of the kind of absurdities to which theorising on insufficient evidence leads I may cite Dr. Jenner's explanation of the parasitic habits of the Cuckoo. He suggested that the short stay which Cuckoos make in England is the true reason why they do not bring up their own young, as the parent birds would be impelled, by a desire to migrate, to quit their progeny before they were able to provide for themselves. Had that eminent medical man paid a visit to India, and studied the habits of the commonest Cuckoo, the Koel, he would not have formulated this theory. The Koel stays for over six months in those localities where it breeds, so that there can be no question of its having sufficient time to rear up its young.

NEO-DARWINISM.

The growth of what is known as Neo-Darwinism is a striking example of the modern tendency to theorise on insufficient evidence. A large school of biologists, headed by Dr. Wallace and Prof. Weismann, declare that all the varied phenomena of the organic world can be explained by the action of natural selection on indefinite and indeterminate variations. I venture to submit that Wallace and Weismann would have but few followers had our European naturalists the advantage of an intimate acquaintance with the birds of India.

Come with me in imagination to a wood on the Nilgiri hills and let us rest there a little, sheltered by the foliage from the rays of the sun, and listen to the voices of the birds. The joyous notes of the Bulbul (*Otocompsa fuscicaudata*) fall unceasingly on the ear, forming the dominant note of the bird choir. Upon these are superimposed a tumult of other sounds—the curious call of the Scimitar Babbler (*Pomatorhinus horsfieldii*), the mirthful tones of the Laughing Thrush (*Trochalopterum cachinnans*), the sweet little song of the White-browed Fantailed Flycatcher, the softer lay of Tickell's Flycatcher (*Cyornis tickelli*), the cheeping of the black and orange species (*Ochromela nigrirufa*), the feeble twitters of the grey-headed one (*Culicicapa ceylonensis*), and a multitude of other sounds.

THE PARADISE FLYCATCHER.

While we are listening a fairy-like bird flits silently into view and perches in a leafy tree. This is a Paradise Flycatcher—a cock in the full glory of his adult plumage. Jet black is his crested head, contrasting sharply with his snowy plumage. Two of his tail feathers, 12 inches longer than the others, hang down like satin streamers. The hen lacks this ornament, and is deep chestnut where her lord and master is white. While we are contemplating him another cock appears on the scene, but he, although possessing the two long tail feathers, is rich chestnut in colour, as is the hen. He is in the second year of his existence, but, like his white neighbour, has a wife and a nest, on which he spends much of the day. Paradise Fycatchers are restless creatures, constantly on the move. These two are soon lost to view amid the green foliage.

But another bird, in its way equally beautiful, has appeared on the scene. Having taken some tiny insect upon the wing, it has alighted on a horizontal branch, and is now bowing gracefully to right and to left, the while spreading out its tail into a fan and singing its lay, which has been likened to the opening bars of the "Guards' Valse." This is the White-browed Fantailed Flycatcher. We cannot say whether it is a cock or hen, for in this species there is no external difference between the sexes. But its habits are very similar to those of the Paradise Flycatcher, and, like that form, it builds an open cup-shaped nest. From the same tree a Grey-headed Flycatcher makes a sally into the air after the "circling gnat." He must have been sitting there some time; but, being inconspicuous, he escaped our notice until he moved.

Let us now saunter on a little, keeping our eyes open for other species of Flycatcher, because it is these we particularly wish to see. In one tree we notice, picking insects off the leaves, a flock of Minnivets (*Pericrocotus flammeus*), the cocks arrayed in black and flaming red, while the hens look equally gay in their gowns of black and bright yellow. On one of the lower branches of the same tree we notice a dumpy little bird with a short square tail, robin-like in colouring but very unrobin-like in shape. It suddenly takes to its wings, circles after some tiny insect, and returns to its perch, and thus we are able to recognise it as the Black-and-Orange Flycatcher. The sexes being alike in plumage we cannot say to which one this individual belongs.

A sharp "chick, chick," followed by a little tune of six notes, betrays the presence of a Tickell's Blue Flycatcher. Approaching softly the tree whence the song seems to come we soon discover the exquisite little glistening blue, red-breasted songster.

We have now seen all the common Flycatchers of the Nilgiris save the blue one (*Steparola albicaudata*), and it is not long before we come upon him. He is an indigo-coloured bird, with whitish underparts. Going a little farther we come upon the brownish-olive hen, with three youngsters, which are brown, spotted with yellow.

(*To be continued.*)

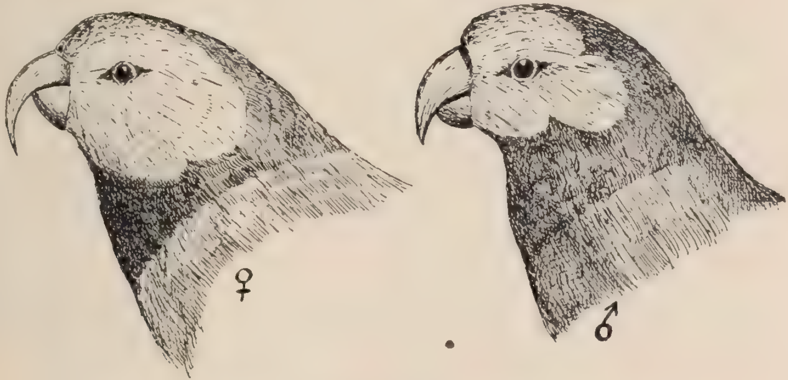
Sexing Violet-necked Lories.

By T. R. HADLEY.

Seeing the question of the outward sexual distinctions of this species has been raised in another journal, possibly the following details may be of some little interest to some of our members. I have made rough pencil sketches, as near life size as possible [reproduced half-size.—ED.], so as to clearly indicate the distinctions given.

They are both adult and appear to be of about equal age, and are thoroughly acclimatised.

The ♀ has the purple band on the front of the neck slightly broader, the purple head mark more intense in colour; the tail also is slightly longer than that of the male. The ♂ is of slightly slimmer build and is more active looking.



Eos riciniata.

Reproduced half size from rough pencil sketches by the Author.

The chief difference is in the head, that of the ♂ being more rounded, his beak is smaller and more rounded from side to side, that of the ♀ being more angular.

I may further remark that the colour of the neck of the ♀ is quite distinct in intensity of colouring from that of the ♂.

Her beak is long, slender, angular and yellowish in colour. Colouration, rich red, purplish neck and body band; black flights; purplish tail; the red wing bar is smaller in area; she is heavier in build and shows less thigh than the ♂.

♂ male. ♀ female.

The beak of the ♂ is stouter and shorter than the ♀. Colouration, rich red; violet neck; purple body band; black flights; purplish tail; shaped neck band; wing bars clear red and larger in area than those of the ♀.

[The above is of much interest, and if those of our members, who possess birds of which the sexes have been proved, would record sexual distinctions it would much increase the interest and practical utility of our Journal, there are many even well known species (Finches, etc., as well as Parrots), the outward sexual distinctions of which are but vaguely described—I would urge our members to send us many similar records to the above. ED.]

Book Notices and Reviews.

THE BIOTA OF THE SAN BERNARDINO MOUNTAINS, by JOSEPH GRINNELL. The University Press, Berkeley, California, U.S.A.

A glossary of contents was given in March issue of this interesting work—of course it is the chapters referring to bird life and distribution that will appeal most to F.B.C. Members.

The chapter entitled—"General Considerations. Bird Population and Its Modifying Influences"—is of intense interest, though of course only a few broken quotations can be made therefrom in the space at our disposal.

"In the coastal lowlands of Southern California, a condition manifests itself which has "been commented upon several times, but which, as far as I am aware, has not been ex-"plained. I refer to the almost universal exodus in July of many of the birds of the "summer-visitant category, which have bred and raised broods during April, May and "June. Such as Bullock Oriole, Yellow Warbler, Lazuli Bunting, Parkman Wren, Black-"headed Grosbeak and many others......become scarce, or disappear altogether, towards "the end of July. Even resident species.. .. California Bushtit and Jay, Black Phoebe, Auna "Humming-bird, and others, are reduced in numbers, although they appear again in early "winter. The reason for the summer exodus is plain......July to October constitute the "winter season at the lower altitudes of Southern California as far as the food supply is "concerned. ....the May bird population, which is abundant cannot continue to be sup-"ported after this winter season sets in, and the result is, they must move elsewhere...... "where do our birds go? .... many species which bred far below us are now (August) moving "up the mountains .....Black-headed Grosbeaks, Bushtits, Western Gnatcatchers, Wrens, "Warblers, are moving up along the Santa Ana, where a month ago none of these species "were to be seen......All this influx of population appears to be mainly due to the con-"spicuous abundance of both vegetable and insect food, particularly the latter.......... "Normally seed-eating birds are taking advantage of this supply, and such species as the "Western Chipping Sparrows and Lazuli Bunting are seen carrying larvæ to their full-"grown but teasing offspring .....All this invasion of the higher altitudes occurs when "spring and summer are just dawning there, but when the foothills and plains below are "become dry and barren under the July heat."

Mr. Grinnell points out that when the food supply fails on the higher altitudes the birds return to the lowlands. Towards the close of the chapter the author makes some interesting observations *re* the great mortality among bird life and also the extent to which winter's cold contributes to this, the following extracts will indicate the thoroughness of these observations.

"The vast mortality in even the more slowly reproducing birds is a result of the equally "large birth rate which is essential to provide the host of individuals factoring in this "process. The phenomena of migration and limited habitats are results, as well as the "evolution of new species through geographic variation because of isolation.".........

"The birds become at least doubly numerous from the last of July on, when the "families of young came into prominence. When and where does the pinch come which "reduces this great augmentation back to normal spring limits."

"I have on many occasions from year to year, at Pasadena in December and January, "noted a great mortality among Audubon Warblers, here, of course, in their winter habitat. "This mortality occurs in dry, cold weather, the dead birds being found in the morning on "side walks beneath trees, or along hedges where presumably the bird had gone to roost "for the night......the general impression being that they have been chilled to death by the "frost......But nothing has impressed itself more forcibly on my mind than the conclusion "*that well-fed birds do not die from exposure to cold.** ...I have examined many......invariably "found them emaciated and without a trace of fat .....they succumbed from ill-nourishment "because of the scarcity of food to which they were adapted......We begin to see, then, "what becomes of the yearly increase Of course there are other factors..... enemies "among both birds and mammals......There must be much variation in the individual "ability of birds to secure an adequate living when food is scarce. And, by the process "of natural elimination, it must be that species are becoming more and more intensely "developed in their food getting ability, along the line of greatest advantage."

Thus ends a chapter of great interest, which is but feebly indicated by the extracts given above. The List of Birds is very complete, and the notes on distribution, wild life, etc., of great interest. The whole fauna of the region is dealt with in a like exhaustive and thorough manner—the work is well illustrated with coloured maps and about 30 excellent photographic reproductions. It should form a welcome addition to very many of our members' bookshelves.

Editorial.

A RARE ARRIVAL. Our esteemed member, Mrs. K. Leslie Miller, is the fortunate possessor of the only living specimen of Leclanche's Bunting (*Cyanospiza leclancheri*) which has so far reached this country. It is an exquisite species, rivalling the smaller Tanagers (*Chlorophonia*) for beauty and far more dainty and beautiful than the gorgeous and familiar Nonpariel Bunting. It belongs to the same genus as the well known Indigo and Nonpareil Buntings, and is described as the Rainbow Bunting by Mr. Beebe in "Two Bird Lovers in Mexico." It is certainly appropriate and much more suitable for so dainty a gem than the formidable cognomen given above. I refrain from further description at present as Mr. Goodchild is preparing a coloured drawing, which we hope to figure in our next issue.

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* The italics are mine.—Ed.

NESTING NOTES. So far none have been sent in, and the only case worth noting in my own aviaries, so far, is that of the Grey-winged Ouzels, and though building a nest is only a small detail of the full programme of rearing young to maturity, yet it rouses hope and interest and has also brought to light several points of much interest. The pair of birds in question were brought over for me in the Spring of last year by Captain Perreau: they did well, but were a long time coming into good plumage. Last Autumn they moulted and came into lovely plumage; in February the ♂ began to drive the ♀ about, giving her no peace, and I was contemplating asking one of my avicultural friends with large natural aviaries to take them over for a few months, as it seemed a pity to let the opportunity run to waste. However, my readers will hardly be surprised to hear that I finally decided to chance my luck, and (limited as is the accommodation of my aviaries and also overcrowded) to do what I could to induce them to nest under my own observation; so I wrote to my esteemed friend Mr. Teschemaker and asked him if he could get me a Blackbird's or a Thrush's nest, hoping they would appropriate it for the rearing of a family, and in preparation therefore I manufactured quite a thicket out of a bundle of pea sticks. Owing to the lateness of the season Mr. Teschemaker found himself unable to respond to my request immediately.

In the meantime the birds settled the matter for themselves, my artificial thicket was despised and also all my other, as I thought, well planned out contrivances on their behalf. The hen was seen stripping the bark off the aviary branches and carrying it in huge beakfuls under the roofed-in portion of their enclosure. I left them severely alone till a few days ago, when, having to go in for cleaning purposes, I found a typical nest, constructed of mud, bark, and straw, on the top of some nest boxes. On Saturday (April 3rd) Mr. Teschemaker kindly sent me the first Thrush's nest for the season, from his district, and I at once fixed it in the artificial thicket and awaited the result. I will not trouble my readers with the argument that I credited those birds with, but they most certainly showed their contempt for all the devices their owner's inventive genius could fashion for them by pulling to pieces the natural nest provided and ignoring every provision made for their comfort (?) The points I have noted are as follows:—

(1) The nest constructed under such adverse conditions is a typical one.
(2) The hen alone collected all the building material.
(3) The hen alone did the building.

Now a few words as to the demeanour of the ♂ during these operations—this may be tersely described as follows:—

As soon as the hen commenced gathering nesting materials he ceased to drive her about.

He guarded her carefully while she was collecting material and suffered no other bird to impede her movements.

He followed her into the shed and stood on guard, on a near branch, while she was disposing of each instalment in the building up of the nest fabric, permitting no other bird to come near.

It was of much interest to me to note, that, apart from the details given above, he had no part in nest construction. He has not been seen carrying a single straw, bent, or particle of mud during the whole period, not even when courting the hen.

The hen not only collected the material, but searched for it as well; the male simply saw that she was not impeded.

The nesting site—this is well chosen, being as close under the roof as a good base permitted them to get, and when the nest is finally complete I should say it will be very difficult of access for marauders.

It will be interesting to note the forces the male has had to contend against, viz.: Rosella Parrakeets, Jendaya Conure, Cockateels, Budgerigars, Rosy Pastors, Black-headed Sibias, and several species of Cardinals. He is master of all! All the above birds have been out of doors through the recent blizzards, and are in exquisite condition.

I am hoping to be able to describe the eggs and callow young in our next issue. Will this hope be realised?

OUR VANISHING SPECIES. British birds come quite within our scope, and our membership covering the whole British Isles, I think we might do much to aid apparently fast vanishing species of our nature avifauna from becoming totally extinct by say—

(1) Refusing to acquire such when offered, *even if we do lose choice exhibition specimens by so doing.*

(2) By reporting every known case of contravention of the Bird Protection Laws to the Police, whether as affecting eggs, dead birds, or living specimens of such species.

(3) By using our influence among our circle of friends and acquaintances for this purpose, even to the acting as a sort of Vigilance Committee over such species as are in danger in our own locality.

Such a Society as ours, if fully alive to the need, should be able to do much in this direction, and now the subject has been mooted, may I urge that those of our members acquainted with the subject will send in lists of species in danger in their district. Such lists to be published in *Bird Notes* so that none may plead ignorance.

I feel that the above will commend itself to our whole membership, and that all will render what aid they can, so that none of our native avifauna go under, save such as become exterminated by the inexorable march of bricks and mortar and the consequent absorption of their native wilds. We can do much by lending our influence and pecuniary aid (as individuals) for the provision of district sanctuaries, where at any rate a small number may be still retained.

PIED OX OR BUFFALO WEAVER. The accompanying plate calls for practically no description, save perhaps to remind our members that it reached our esteemed member, Mr. Millsum, *via* the Continent and arrived dead. It simply remains for me to say that with the exception of a few of the neck feathers, which are chocolate-brown, the light and dark areas shown in plate are white and black respectively. This bird is yellow (see also "Birds of Gambia," page 39 of this issue).

IMPORTING FOREIGN BIRDS. From a recent letter received from our esteemed member, Mr. Suggit, that as a result of the joint attempt to import rare foreigners (vide *B.N.* March issue) by Mr. Sutcliffe and himself, they have had a letter from the mate of the vessel that among others he has the following :—Nonpareils, Partridges, Hangnests, Blue Buntings (*Azulecos*) [very probably *Cyanospiza lazulina.* Ed.], Stork, Thrushes, Mocking Birds, Violet Tanager, Dominicoes (*S. parva*). We must hope that the list will be still further added to and that they will all reach this country alive, as there appear to be several very interesting species among them.

BRITISH BIRD NOTES. I have been spending the Easter at Stubbington, and the Isle of Wight, with our esteemed members Messrs. Mathias, Willford, and Lewis, and my holiday has been the more enjoyable for avicultural gossip and viewing our members' aviaries and birds ; but must reserve my notes of same for next issue.

At Stubbington the variety and song of birds was little short of overpowering—the power of song especially in early morning was simply wonderful, and during my three days' stay here I do not think the Lark was silent for more than ten minutes at a time, between 5 a.m. and dusk—often a dozen carolling at once ; while Thrushes, Blackbirds, Linnets, Accentors, Robins, Wrens, and many others so dear to English hearts were in abundance and nests numerous on every hand. During a walk to Hill Haven, and while enjoying the prospect there, a local bird lover reported the first Swallow on April 7th, which was confirmed a little later on by Col. Delmé Radcliffe's keeper. The next day I received a letter from my esteemed friend Mr. W. E. Teschemaker, from which I quote the following :—

"Two Swallows turned up on April 7th, many on the 8th, and a big "flight of Wheatears. Saw two Chiffchaffs and a Willow Warbler on "the 9th."

It would thus appear that probably April 7th may be the date of first arrivals or, at any rate, an additional influx of Swallows and other birds on the South Coast.

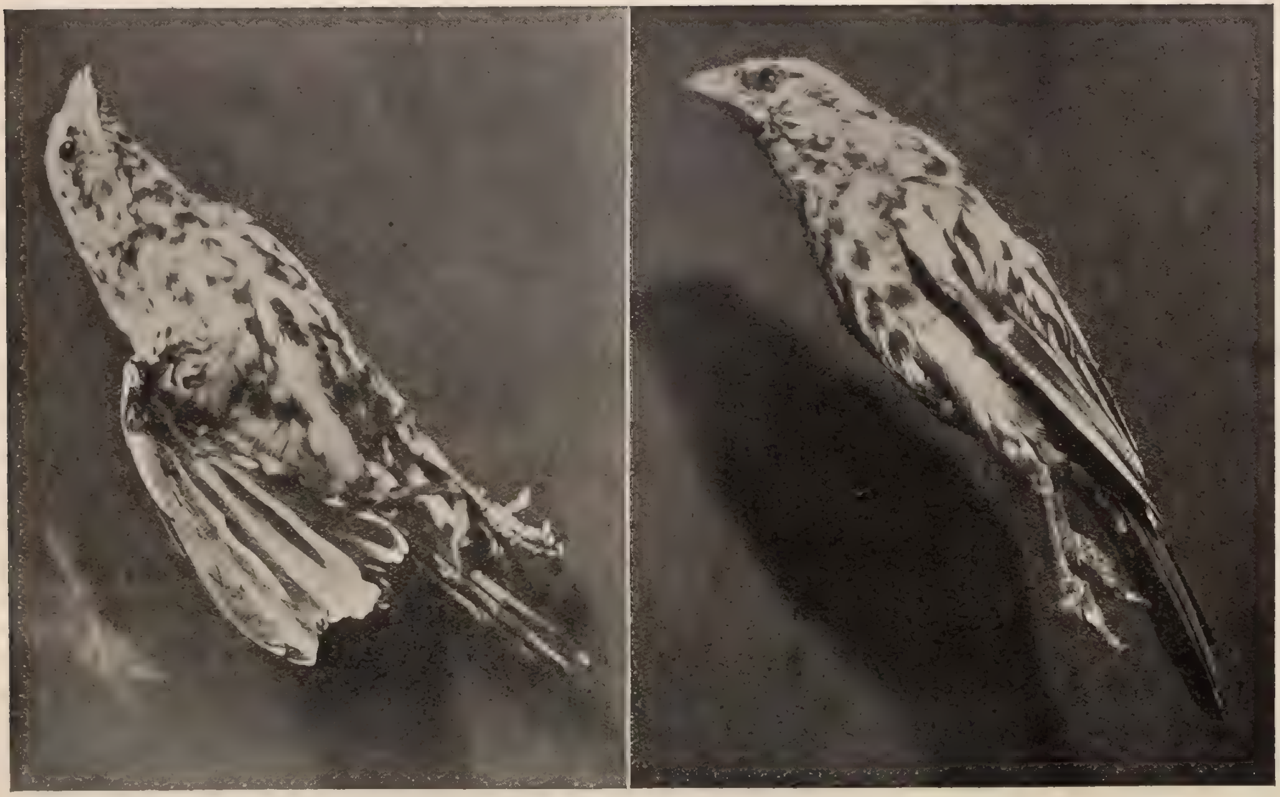

Photo by E. O. Page

THE BUFFALO OR OX WEAVER—ABNORMAL PLUMAGE.

Bird Notes from Far and Near.

ABOUT MY PENDULINE TITMICE.

From an interesting account by Frau Marie Assaulenko, in *Die Gefiederte Welt* the following notes have been compiled. Of the many species of Tits the Penduline is one of the finest and most attractive in many features of the leading characteristics of these interesting birds; though so delicate and frail, that only a few very experienced bird-keepers succeed in keeping them for any length of time. I had been specially desirous for a long time for a pair of such birds, and although the Titmouse is a very frequent visitor, I could not satisfy my longing till last summer. . . . The catching of these birds, especially in their nest, is very easy and simple: one remembers a not too high hanging nest and when it is growing dark in the evening, you creep gently near and close up the opening of the nest: so has one for certain at once caught a pair, for the Titmice always sleep in the nest, even when it is only in a partly finished condition and eggs are not yet deposited. Unfortunately, however, Titmice caught in this way have only a short life in captivity . . . . all food which I placed before them, fresh ants' cocoons, mealworms, all other kinds of insects, as well as kitchen scraps, were disdainfully refused. . . . and to save their lives I had to speedily restore them to liberty. . . . . My failure in this respect I have always attributed to the fact that I did not get the birds at the right time. . . . . It is generally known that late caught birds, and birds caught on the point of breeding are much more difficult to accustom to captivity than those caught wild in spring. I did everything possible to acquire for my Titmice suitable provision according to their needs, but unfortunately I have never succeeded, even with one single pair, to procure them at the right time. . . . . Titmouse net, bird lime, everything was in train, the longing for the birds, but they were and still remain unobtainable. . . . . My patience was put to a severe test and my dream seemed likely a dream to remain, and yet, in spite of all this failure, I am at this moment the happy possessor of five Titmice, splendid and thoroughly good birds, which, in a large cage with Blue, Marsh and Fir Titmice, bustle about merrily and consume their mixed food very agreeably and with apparent pleasure. I am indebted to chance for my birds. . . . but before further description, I should like to say a few words about nests, especially the nest building of the Penduline Titmouse, because I have just made careful observation of this species. No bird has ever excited in so great a measure my astonishment and admiration as these pigmies of the bird world. It seems almost incredible that this tiny, weak little bird should produce alone, with the help of his beak and feet, so artistic and completely woven a nest. The building always begins from the top. . . . two thin willow (osier) or birch branches are wrapped round from the place, where the prong is formed, with long hemp and thread (fibre). . . . in order to make this fast the bird flutters and crawls hither and thither very cleverly on the pendulous branches, always holding the other end of the thread in his beak, whereby a network arises,—as soon as this is about two fingers wide, the bird entangles two or three convenient pendulous branches, each one separately with the nest materials, in order to connect them together at the ends; from this foundation now arises the real cavity, which is formed almost without exception of plant wool (osier wool). Now come the feet of the little architect into play; if the nest has reached about the form of a finches' nest, one of the birds (so far as I could observe the male) remains continually inside sitting, receiving the material from its mate, who keeps him well supplied; this he places under his body and felts together with beak and feet. . . . His movements are very droll, he flings himself about, scrapes with his feet and tugs with his beak, reminding one in his very lively movements of a great Owl bathing in the sand; with the cavity at last finished, the narrow sides are built up and interwoven, both birds take part in this work and the nest assumes the shape of a small basket, which should have a really wide handle. In such nests I have found from two to five eggs, and usually the first egg of the clutch is laid as soon as the back wall is finished. The flying in tunnel or tube is constructed entirely by the male. However, it also happens that the little pair finish the nest mutually and only then commence actual breeding operations. In the course of the five years my observations cover, I found three nests which had two flying in tunnels, which were constructed opposite to each other on both sides of the nest. This is evidence that the mates of such a nest are unfaithful to one another and each on its side is seeking diversion: "that with such immoral ways of living each needs its separate entry" is quite clear. The clutch consists of ten to thirteen eggs, and both birds take part in incubation—both birds pass the night in the nest,—the period of incubation is twelve days and the callow young are assiduously cared for by their parents. Young Titmice remain an astonishingly long time in the nest, never make their appearance before twenty days, and are fed by their parents for a long time afterwards. In the first half of August they assemble together in small flocks, which enliven in a charming manner every tree and bush growing on the shore. In the second half of September not a single one remains. (Miss) F. B. PAGE.

[It would be of much interest if some member would supply details f the European distribution of this interesting species.—ED.]

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NOTES ON BIRDS OF CAPE COLONY (ST. HELENA SEEDEATER × CANARY HYBRID.

With reference to an interesting note on a St. Helena Seedeater × Canary Hybrid in the magazine for February, I saw one of these hybrids in Cape Town last January, bred by Mr. J. Templer a keen fancier there. The bird was hardly through the moult, and I am afraid I cannot remember the colour sufficiently well to describe it, but in shape he closely resembled the one whose photo appears in this month's *Bird Notes*. He was just commencing to sing and I had no difficulty in recognising the notes of the St. Helena Seedeater; the song was remarkably loud and clear.

I had a pair of these Seedeaters build in my aviary in Port Elizabeth a few years ago. The nest, which was built about the beginning of October was a very neat structure, composed chiefly of fine dry grass and was built in some dry heather fixed at the back of the aviary. As the aviary was very crowded at the time, I removed the pair with their nest to a smaller one, but this quite unsettled them, and the hen, after laying two eggs on the ground, gave up all ideas of nesting,

Unfortunately these birds escaped shortly afterwards, so I was unable to give them an opportunity of breeding, under more favourable conditions, the following season.

In the Colony they are known by the name of "Geel-saysie," but are often confused with *Serinus icterus*. In the neighbourhood of Port Elizabeth they are most plentiful amongst the scrubby bush growing on the sand-hills near the beach. I found a nest early in December last, built in a fork of a low bush about three feet from the ground, close to the sea-shore. I discovered the nest from seeing the birds carrying nesting material in that direction and found that it was not quite completed. H. E. BLISS.

The Month's Arrivals.

Mr. F. C. Thorpe has recently imported some Godman Tanagers (*Euphonia godmani*). This is one of the races of the well-known Violet Tanager (*Euphonia violacea*), and closely resembles it in outward appearance, though it is much smaller. Those recently imported are not quite up to the standard measurements of this species but I think the identification is correct. It may be useful to distinguish between four species of *Euphonia* which resemble one another in colouring. The smallest is the little Dwarf Tanager (*Euphonia minuta*)—a very pigmy among Tanagers. a pair of which may be seen in the new Bird-house at the Zoological Gardens; under tail-coverts white. Next in point of size comes the Godman. A little larger and with wide and heavy mandibles is the Thick-billed Tanager (*E laniirostris*), also to be seen in the Bird-house. Lastly, the common *E. violacea*, which needs no description. Mr. Beebe met with the Godman Tanager in Mexico and from his charming book ("Two Bird-lovers in Mexico") I quote the following: "Not far from camp were several groves of wide-branching wild fig-trees. These were the grandest trees in this part of Mexico, branching almost from the ground and stretching out their vast mass of foliage on all sides. Some of them measure fully ten feet through near the base. Their fruit is devoured by cattle, deer and birds, though in this locality it was not yet ripe ....Here we found the little Godman Euphonia in abundance—four inches of yellow and violet; the male with his bright yellow cap, breast and under parts, and his mate of a sombre greenish. The voice of the Euphonia is out of all proportion to his size—a loud but slow and hesitating *phe-út! phe-út!*" I may add that the note of the Godman appears to me to be identical with that of *E. violacea*. W. E. T.

The new Bird-protection Act has spread great consternation among the bird-dealers in Germany. One of them wrote to me lately, "Of course it is a crazy law, but none will dare to break it." It is much more comprehensive than ours, extending from 1st March to 1st October, between which dates no European birds may be caught, sold, or even advertized for sale. It is quite clear that we shall no longer be able to obtain such birds as Sprossers, Hoopoes, or Blue-throated Warblers from Germany, and this is the more to be regretted because the Germans are especially clever in their treatment of the insectivorous migrants. I have had Sprossers sent me from Germany, which, after a journey of forty-eight hours, were in infinitely better condition than anything I could get in London. Their method of packing is excellent. The travelling cage has a very large base and low sides so that it cannot be upset. The wired portion over the food tins is uncovered and admits plenty of light. Large earthenware pots for water are provided. The soft food consists of scalded ants' eggs and maw-seed with dead mealworms well mixed up in it. The London dealer usually sends out birds in a small cage, which is easily upset, wraps it in paper so that the inmates are in total darkness and throws in a handful of live mealworms which promptly make good their escape W. E. T.

A relative has recently sent me from the Argentine four Great Tinamous (*Rhyncotus rufescens*), which arrived in excellent condition in a large crate. Two of them had lost a good many feathers from their backs when passing through the Tropics. This species is as large as a three-parts-grown Pheasant, rufous on the neck and breast and handsomely barred with black and buff on the wings. I hear they are locally called "Martinétas," but the real Martineta Tinamou has a crest. Like the rest of the Tinamous this species is polyandrous, the male performing the entire duties of incubation and rearing the young. Eggs of this species have been several times hatched in this country and attempts have been made to acclimatise it in Essex and Hertfordshire. W. E. T.

Post Mortem Reports.

(*Vide Rules*).

For replies by post, a fee of 2/6 *must be sent;* this regulation will not be broken under any condition.

H. W. Mathias and W. R. Temple answered by post.

BLUE-WINGED LOVEBIRD. (H. W. Mathias). Cause of death, fatty degeneration of the liver.

WHYDAH. (H. V. Johnson). Cause of death, pneumonia and fatty degeneration of liver.

BULBUL, REDPOLL and GROSBEAK. (W. E. Teschemaker). Cause of death, in every instance was pneumonia and fatty degeneration of liver.

WHITE-EARED CONURE. (Mrs. B. Croysdale). Cause of death inflammation of bowels and fatty degeneration of liver. The sex was a hen.

BLACK-HEADED GOULDIAN FINCH (cock). (Dr. J. Easton Scott). Cause of death pneumonia and jaundice.

RED-HEADED GOULDIAN FINCH (hen). (Miss Drummond). Cause of death, pneumonia and jaundice. A fairly matured egg was in the oviduct.

COCK MADAGASCAR WEAVER. (H. V. Johnson). Cause of death, extensive double pneumonia, BLACK MADAGASCAR WEAVER. (M. Lock). Cause of death, pneumonia. Your letter is very interesting. Why don't you publish your experience in *Bird Notes*, as I am sure it would be appreciated by the readers?

MANY-COLOUR PARRAKEET (hen). (Hon. M. C. Hawke). Cause of death, apoplexy.

AMAZON (hen). (T. R. Hadley). The whole of the ingesta was impregnated with a greenish material, even the seeds being intensely stained all through their substance. I am of opinion the cause of death was poisoning with some copper salt, probably arseniate of copper, but without a chemical analysis I am not certain. There was intense gastro-intestinal inflammation which gave rise to the symptoms you mentioned.

BUDGERIGAR (hen). (J. H. Henstock). The cause of death was pneumonia, which has been so prevalent of late not only in birds but also in people.

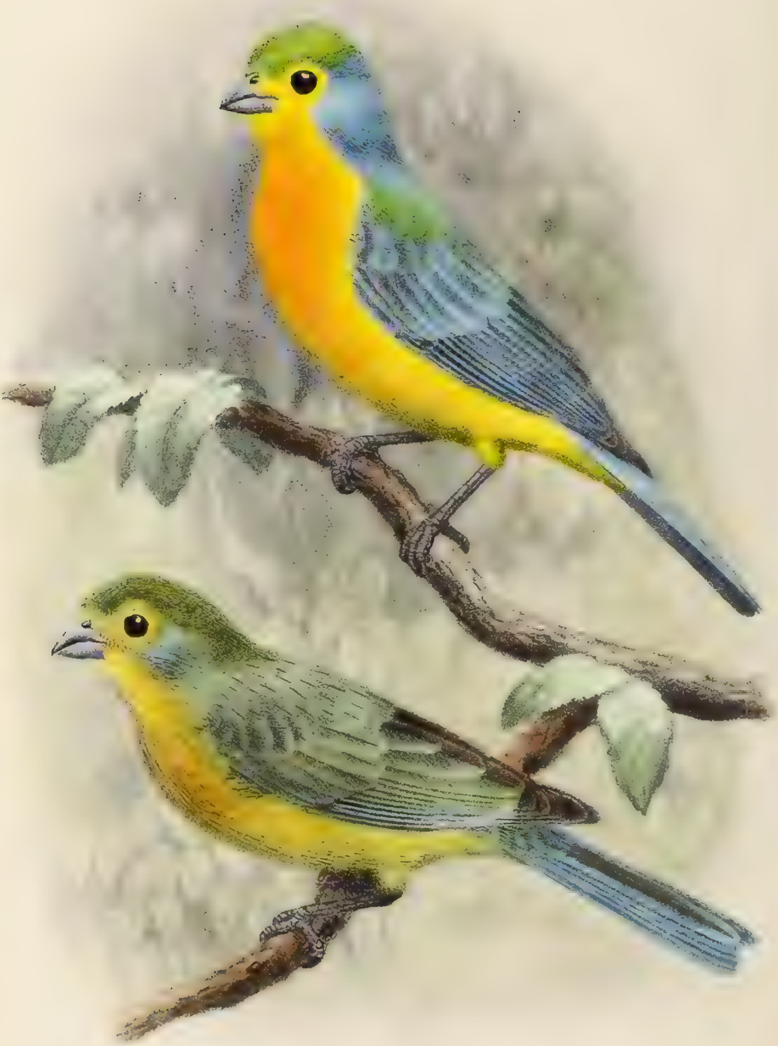
BUDGERIGAR. (Miss Procter). Cause of death, acute inflammation of bowels.

SCALY-WING FINCH. (Mrs. Harris). Cause of death, inflammation of lungs and bowels.

The longevity of birds would make an interesting theme. Any of the readers who have had birds in their possession many years should record their observations for the benefit of Ornithology. Also articles on the feeding and general management of particular birds would prove instructive to the younger aviculturist.

HENRY GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

NEW ARRIVALS AT THE ZOO. Just on going to press we learn of two interesting arrivals, which we hope to note more fully in next issue. THE CARTARGENIAN MOTNOT (*Momotus subrufescens*). An interesting species, which has not been exhibited at the gardens for many years; it has many interesting habits and traits. It is solitary and also of an indolent demeanour; the long tail is swung, pendulum-fashion, from side to side and periodically jerked up over the back. The two central tail feathers are much longer than the others, they are perfectly webbed immediately after the moult, but a little later the webs are bitten away by the birds, so that these two feathers become "racket shaped." THE CUBAN or BLACK-BROWED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes superciliaris*). A very rare species, which has not I believe been previously exhibited at the gardens; it is a typical Woodpecker in form and appearance, and is distinctly larger than our Greater Spotted Woodpecker. Its length over all is 11 inches; the upper surface is barred black and white, the lower being tawny, with a large patch of crimson on the abdomen, the forehead, hind crown, and nape are crimson (the description is from memory). This species is specially fond of fruit and will take any quantity of live insects. It is located in the Insect House and the former in the Western Aviary.



[illegible] lith. Huth imp

LECLANCHE'S OR RAINBOW BUNTING.

Cyanospiza leclancheri.

[illegible] in the possession of Mrs K. Leslie Miller

All rights reserved.] May, 1909.

BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Leclancher or Rainbow Bunting.

Cyanospiza leclancheri.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., &c.

With two species of this beautiful genus we are well acquainted, viz., the Nonpareil and Indigo Buntings, *ciris* and *cyanea* ; but to most the species figured on our plate (*leclancheri*), will be considered far more beautiful, even than the gorgeous Nonpareil, more especially so, as it is already evident that the lovely and chaste colouring of *leclancheri* will retain its full beauty in captivity, and not fade as does that of *ciris*. It is the first living specimen of its kind to reach this country ; it was imported by the well known dealer J. D. Hamlyn, from whom it was purchased by our esteemed member Mrs. K. Leslie Miller, who is to be congratulated on the possession of so exquisite and unique an acquisition.

I was unable to immediately respond to a kind invitation to call and see this rarity, but was enabled to name it for Mrs. Miller from Mr. Miller's lucid description.

I feel really at a loss for superlatives, with which to fittingly describe this lovely bird, without appearing extravagant. So few have ever seen a skin and fewer still have seen it alive, but the latter, at any rate, will fully appreciate my difficulty ; therefore I must merely describe its colouring as dainty, chaste, and exquisitely harmonised, in fact a " dream of loveliness." With this I must leave the reproduction of Mr. Goodchild's admirable painting and the detailed description to adequately present this bird to my readers.

I cannot however pass on without quoting, *in extenso*, from

"Two Bird Lovers in Mexico," C. W. Beebe's description of this lovely bird in its native wilds :—

> "The most beautiful of all the small birds was a Bunting. We "christened him the Rainbow Bunting, but the books call him the "Leclancher Bunting. These little finches flitted through the underbrush in "pairs, searching for insects and seeds among the leaves or mounting to the "top of a small bush and giving voice to their joy in a little ditty, the "attempt at which was most to be admired, for the twittering ended in "promise. Their beauty and vivacity evade all description. A photograph "would convey nothing of their charm. Try to imagine a little feathered "sprite, less than five inches in length, with a crown of apple-green ; cheeks, "back, wings, and tail of turquoise-blue ; throat and underparts of clear "lemon-yellow ; with a band of delicate orange across the breast ! His "mate who follows him so faithfully and listens to his pitiful song so "admiringly, has the greens and yellows in softened, indistinct hues. "Altogether they are charming little birds, living in a region where their "beauty falls only upon such unappreciative eyes of those of Vultures and "Crows. Common in the Colima lowlands. Rare in the lower barrancas of "the volcano."

Prepared as I was by the above description to see a beautiful bird, the reality far exceeded what my imagination had pictured, and Mr. Beebe's eulogy of this dainty species, is most certainly not exaggerated.

From my own limited observations and a few notes, kindly supplied by its owner, I have gathered the following notes, which will briefly indicate its demeanour under the conditions of cage life :—

At present it has not attempted anything in the way of song, only indulging in a faint chirp when spoken to.

He is very fond of being noticed and inclined to sulk if neglected in this respect, this its owner finds to be characteristic of the Bunting family, under the conditions of cage-life, as the Nonpareil and Pileated Buntings, both of which she at present possesses, exhibit exactly similar features.

He occupies a cage 18 in. square and 22 in. high ; bathes occasionally in his water pot, but so far refuses to take an orthodox bath.

His diet consists of canary, white and Indian millet seeds, with about three mealworms a day, given at intervals, and which he is very fond of.

Apparently he is in perfect health and doing well ; his plumage has become very tight and silken and the colouring has become much more intense.

Beautiful as it is under the conditions of cage life it would be far more so in a garden aviary, where in flight and under the play of sunlight, its full beauty would be revealed, and one can only hope that the advent of this single specimen is but the precursor of many others, that this feast of beauty may be generally enjoyed.

DESCRIPTION.—*Adult male* : Upper surface a combination of turquoise—and cobalt-blue, washed greenish on the upper back ; lesser and median coverts rich cobalt-blue ; greater and primary coverts dusky, with their outer webs bluish-green, the primaries edged with hoary-whitish near the tips, inner secondaries edged yellowish at the tip ; tail feathers turquoise-blue, greenish under some conditions of lighting ; crown, delicate apple-green ; lores and a ring round the eyes rich golden-yellow ; ear-coverts and sides of neck rich cobalt-blue ; cheeks and entire undersurface golden-yellow, washed with intense orange on the throat and breast ; beak, upper mandible brownish horn colour, lower mandible pale pinkish-horn colour ; legs and feet pale brownish ; iris rich brown. Length 5 inches, tail 2¼.

Adult female : Very different from the male, the upper surface is dull olive greenish ; rump bright olive-green ; upper tail coverts blue ; wings dull olive-green, with the wing-coverts shaded with blue, tail pale blue ; head yellowish olive-green ; lores, ring round eyes, cheeks and remainder of under surface yellow ; ear-coverts dull blue ; sides and back of neck greyish-green. Total length 4¾ inches, tail 2 1-5th.

HABITAT. Mexico.

Only six skins are in the British Museum collection, 5 ♂ and 1 ♀.

Dr. Bowdler Sharpe in the B. M. Cat., Vol. XII., enumerates the following species, of which I give the principal colourative features of the males.

ciris : The well-known Nonpareil. Head purplish-blue ; upper back yellow ; lower back and upper tail coverts vermilion ; under surface bright vermilion.

cyanea : The well-known Indigo. Upper and under surface bright blue.

amœna : Upper surface blue, mantle and upper back blackish ; median-coverts white ; foreneck, chest and sides of breast orange-rufous ; sides of body pale orange-rufous ; breast and abdomen white.

rositæ : Upper surface bright blue ; breast vermilion ; abdomen and under tail-coverts salmon red.

leclancheri: The Rainbow Bunting. Upper surface turquoise and cobalt blue; crown apple-green; under surface bright lemon-yellow; throat and breast orange.

versicolor (*lazulina*): Lazuline Bunting. Upper and lower surface mostly purplish-red, with the lower back, rump, upper tail-coverts and lesser wing coverts lilacine; crown vinous-red; forehead lilac-blue; lores and base of cheeks black; ear coverts, cheeks and eye region lilacine; tail feathers black edged with blue.

Thus, there are yet three other species of which living specimens have not reached this country.

The Birds of India.

By Douglas Dewar, I.C.S.

[*A Lecture delivered before the Indian Section of the Royal Society of Arts, and reproduced by kind permission of the Author and R.S.A.*]
From the Journal of the Royal Society of Arts.
(*Continued from page* 48, *Vol. VIII.*)

The Insufficiency of Natural Selection.

Thus we have seen, living together in one wood, no fewer than six different species of flycatcher, of various shapes and sizes; in some the sexes are alike, in others they display considerable difference. The feeding habits of all are very similar. All dwell in the same environment. There are, indeed, differences in their various nesting habits, but those of the paradise and fantailed species are identical, so that if the colouring of a bird is solely due to the action of natural selection, these two species should be almost identical in shape, size, and colouration. Obviously, then, natural selection fails here to accomplish all that the neo-Darwinians require it to do. It explains much, but not everything. It is but one of many factors in the making of species.

Indian Robins.

The Indian Robins present even greater difficulties to those who profess to pin their faith to the all-sufficiency of natural selection. Robins are found in nearly all parts of India, and fall into two species, the Brown-backed (*Thamnobia cambaiensis*) and the Black-backed Indian Robin (*Thamnobia fulicata*). The former occurs only in Northern India, and the latter is confined to the Southern portion of the peninsula. The hen of each species is a sandy brown bird with a patch of brick-red feathers under the tail, so that we cannot tell by merely looking at a hen to which of the two species she belongs. The cock of the South Indian form is, in winter, a glossy black bird, with a white bar in the wing, and the characteristic red patch under the tail. The cock of the northern species, as his name implies, has a sandy-brown back, which contrasts strongly with the glossy black of his head, neck, and under parts. In summer the cocks of the two species grow more like one another owing to the wearing away of the outer edges of their feathers; but it is always possible to distinguish between them at a glance. The two species meet at about the latitude of Bombay. Oates states that in a certain zone, from Ahmednagar to the mouth of the Godaveri valley, both species occur, and they do not appear to interbreed.

It seems impossible to maintain that natural selection, acting on minute variations, has brought about the divergence between these two species. Even if it be asserted that the difference in the colour of the feathers of the back of the two cocks is in some way correlated with adaptability to their particular environment, how are we to explain the fact that in a certain zone both species flourish?

BULBULS.

A similar phenomenon is furnished by the Red-vented Bulbuls. This genus falls into several species, each corresponding to a definite locality and differing only in details from the allied species, as, for example, the distance down the neck to which the black of the head extends. There is a Punjab Red-vented Bulbul (*Molpastes intermedius*), a Bengal (*Molpastes bengalensis*), a Burmese (*Molpastes burmanicus*), and a Madras (*Molpastes hæmorrhous*) species.

It does not seem possible to maintain the contention that these various species are the products of natural selection, for that would mean if the black of the head of the Punjab species extended further into the neck the bird could not live in that part of the country. As there seems to be some intercrossing between these so-called species at places, such as Lucknow, where they meet, I am inclined to regard them as local races of a species, rather than as species of a genus. This, however, does not affect the difficulty which they present to Wallace and his school.

It is tempting to believe that these slight external differences are in some way or other produced by the direct action of the climate to which the various forms are subjected. Unfortunately for this hypothesis, there is evidence which seems to disprove it. For example, the common house-sparrow in India differs from our English sparrows in having white cheeks, but those Indian sparrows which are brought to this country do not lose the white cheek patch as they should do had it been the result of the direct action of the climate in India.

THE RED TURTLE DOVE.

The Red Turtle Dove (*Oenopopelia tranquebarica*) is another Indian bird of great interest to the biologist. It is widely distributed over the plains, and undergoes local migration. Its nesting and feeding habits are identical with those of the other doves common in India—the Ring, the Spotted, and the little Brown Dove. But, while in these species the cocks and the hens are alike in external appearance, the Red Turtle Dove displays considerable sexual dimorphism. So great is the difference between the cock and the hen that they have been mistaken for different species. Thus we have in India, living side by side, four widely distributed species of dove, all having similar habits, and in three of these species the sexes are alike in appearance, while, in the fourth, they display considerable differences. Why this should be so, no neo-Darwinian has attempted to explain. Facts such as these seem to be left severely alone by Weismann and his followers.

SO-CALLED MIMICRY.

The avifauna of India furnishes zoologists with what some of them, at any rate, are pleased to term a most striking case of mimicry. Among birds and beasts certain species have their doubles. Now, when two species, which are not near blood relations, are alike in appearance, and this likeness appears to be advantageous to one of the two species, this latter is said, in biological parlance, to mimic the other. Such mimicry is, of course, unconscious. It is commonly supposed to have been brought about by natural selection. Now, there is in India, a cuckoo—the Drongo-cuckoo (*Surniculus lugubris*)—which resembles in appearance the common King-crow (*Dicrurus ater.*) Further the cuckoo is parasitic on the King-crow. Now, this last is, as we have seen, a very pugnacious bird, especially at the nesting season. It guards its nursery with great ferocity. I have watched a pair of these little birds attack and drive away a monkey which tried to climb into the tree in which their nest was placed. Indeed, so able a fighter is the King-crow that some other birds—notably orioles and doves, which also are very pugnacious, frequently build their nests in the same trees as the King-crow, in order to share the benefit of his prowess. It would be almost impossible to deposit eggs in the nest of a bird so pugnacious as the King-crow without resorting to guile. But the Drongo-cuckoo is as like the King-crow in appearance as one pea is like another. Both are small glossy black birds with a longish forked tail. Now, zoologists, seeing how the cuckoo profits by this resemblance, declare that it mimics the King-crow, and that this resemblance has been brought about by natural selection. The theory sounds very plausible, but close inspection reveals its weak points. The King-crow is no fool, so that in order that the cuckoo may delude him into the belief that it is a fellow king-crow the likeness must be fairly close. But the average cuckoo is not in the least like the King-crow in appearance, so that no small variation in the direction of King-crow appearance would be of any use to it. Hence this remarkable resemblance must in the first place have arisen fortuitously, or rather, causes similar to those which effected the nigritude of the King-crow must have made the ancestral Drongo-cuckoo black. But we are as yet more or less in the dark as to what has caused the King-crow to be black, so that we are not in a position to say how it was that this species of cuckoo came to resemble the drongo in appearance.

In attempting to account for any characteristic of an organism by means of natural selection we must be able to explain the utility to the organism of the character in question in its initial stage, and at each subsequent stage of its development. It is not sufficient to show that the character in its final and complete stage is of use to its possessor. This is an important point, which biologists, especially neo-Darwinians, frequently seem to forget.

The Black-and-yellow Grosbeak (*Pycnorhamphus icteroides*), a bird common in many parts of the Himalayas, resembles the Black-headed Oriole nearly as closely as the Drongo-cuckoo does the King-crow. But since the Grosbeak does not descend to the plains, and the Black-headed Oriole (*Oriolus melanocephalus*) does not ascend the hills, neither can possibly derive any benefit from the resemblance, which it should be added, extends only to the cocks. Thus there is here no question of mimicry.

Another Indian cuckoo, the famous Brain-fever Bird (*Hierococcyx varius*), displays a remarkable likeness to the Shikra (*Astur badius*), a sparrow-hawk very common in India. This is said to be a case of mimicry, because the cuckoo is supposed to derive profit from the resemblance. The Babblers (*Crateropus canorus*), which it victimises, are said to mistake it for a Shikra, flee in terror from it, and so give it the opportunity it requires to gain access to their nests. It is quite likely that the cuckoo does derive benefit from the resemblance. But this is not sufficient to explain a likeness, which is so faithful as to extend to the marking of each individual feather. When a Babbler espies a hawk-like bird, it does not wait to inspect each feather before fleeing in terror; hence all that is necessary to the cuckoo is that it should bear a general resemblance to the Shikra. The fact that the likeness extends to minute details in feather marking points to the fact that in each case identical causes have operated to produce this type of plumage.

WALLACEISM.

It is thus obvious that the problem of evolution is far more complex than Wallace and Weismann would have us believe. Since their doctrine is widely accepted in England to-day, and is inculcated by Professor Poulton at Oxford, I have, in touching upon the study of the birds of India in its scientific aspect, thought fit to bring together a few facts which seemed to show that the Neo-Darwinism is untenable. I would add that I went out to India imbued with the teaching of Wallace, and have abandoned it with reluctance, owing to the many facts opposed to it that have forced themselves upon my notice in that country. I am not attacking the doctrine of natural selection, for I believe that selection is an important factor in the genesis of species. It is to the views of Wallace and Weismann, who have out-Darwined Darwin, that I am compelled to take exception. It seems to me that Dr. Wallace preaches, not Darwinism, but Wallaceism, which is a very different thing.

(*To be continued.*)

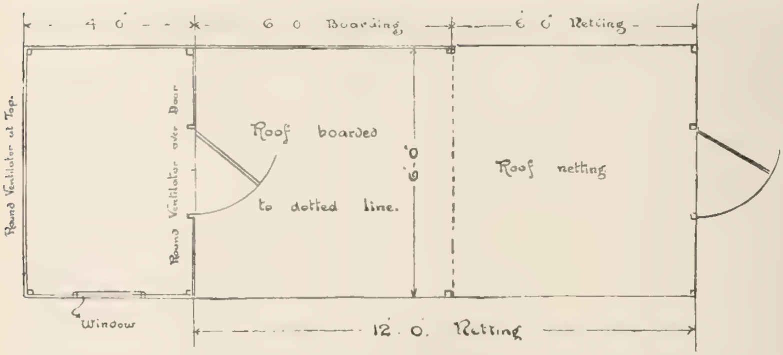
An Easter Visit to Members' Aviaries.

By WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S.

As a sort of preface, I may be permitted to say that my visits commenced at Stubbington, where I spent three-and-a-half days, and had quite an interesting time among our British birds, which were very numerous in this locality, especially the Lark, as indicated in last issue. On the Monday I went over to the Isle of Wight, spending two days there before returning to London. Without further preface I will now proceed to describe our Members' Aviaries, taking them in the order of my visits, illustrating my notes with photos and plans of same.

* * *

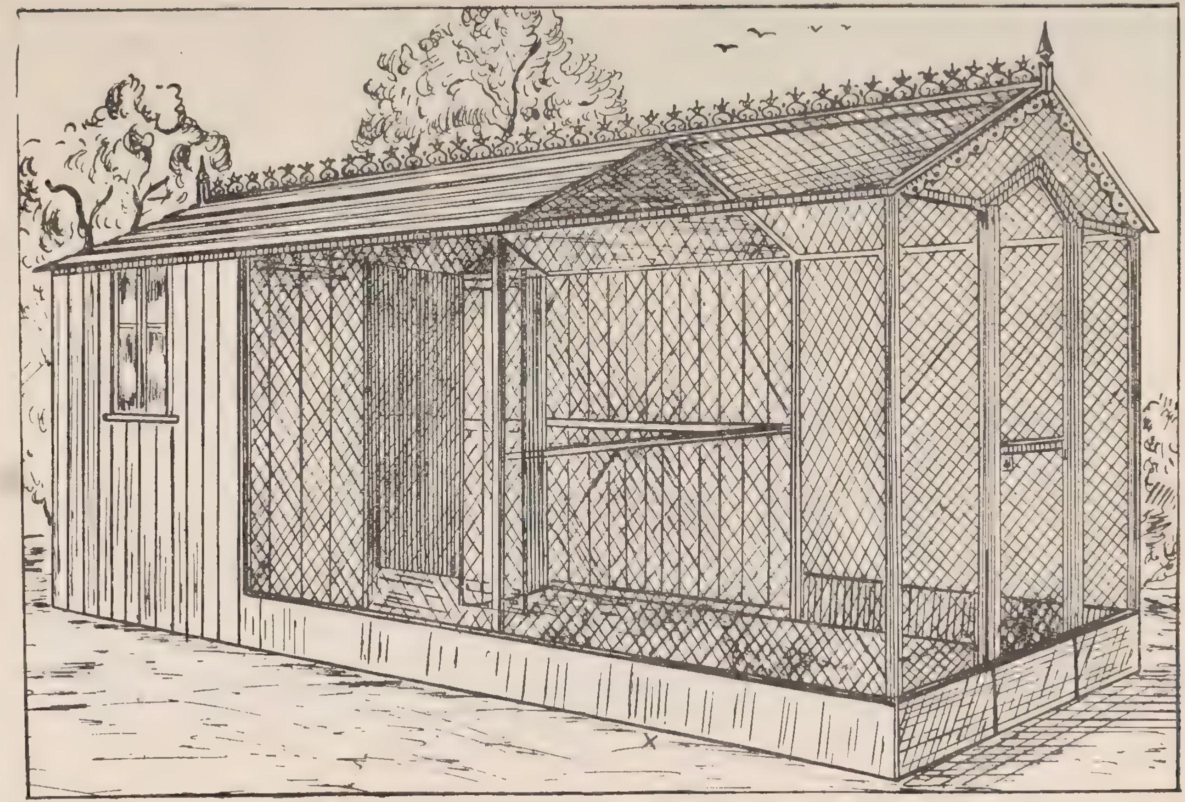
MR. MATHIAS'S AVIARIES: These have already been described in this Journal (Vol. VII.) and it will suffice to say that the flight of the Finch Aviary has been extended to 18½ft. by 9ft. part of which is planted with conifers, bamboos, etc., and to refer my readers to the plate of his latest aviary, a handsome structure, of which the illustration gives such clear details that further description is not called for, save perhaps to say that, owing to the locality being a very breezy one, an arrangement of hinged frames of light wood, glass and roofing felt, so that either side or both can be closed according to the direction of the wind. This aviary should prove most successful as it is well arranged and gives the birds privacy, shelter, and yet an abundance of light and air. It contains three pairs Black-cheeked Lovebirds, pairs of Green and Yellow Budgerigars, Stanley, Passerine and Many-colour Parrakeets, Saffron Finches and Diamond Doves.



GROUND PLAN.

In the Finch Aviary are Long- and Rufous-tailed Grassfinches, Crimson Finches; Orange-cheek and Zebra Waxbills, Common Avadavats, Saffron Finches, Diamond Doves, Canaries (with young), etc.

The Budgerigar Aviary contained about six pairs, most of which were engaged in incubation, and were certainly a healthy and well-feathered



Mr. Mathias' Latest Aviary.

stock. Last year was Mr. Mathias's first year in Foreign Bird keeping, and he was very successful in breeding Grassfinches and four Crimson Finches, and with his increased accommodation should have equal if not greater success this coming season. He has the neuclus of an interesting series.

My stay with him was particularly enjoyable and varied, for I had not merely avicultural and ornithological, but floral fare as well. Mr. Matthias being an enthusiastic cultivator of the winter-flowering or perpetual carnations, and also a noted exhibiter as well, having recently taken Gold Medals at the Horticultural Hall on March 24th last, also at other similar exhibitions. I trust I may be pardoned this digression, but the flower is an old favourite of mine, and in the past I have been a small grower of the same, possessing sufficient knowledge to appreciate the lovely blooms displayed, though my visit was in what may be termed the off season. The *Gardener's Magazine* have honoured Mr. Mathias by publishing his portrait and short biography, speaking of him as an example of an amateur rising to the front rank of professionalism, and admirers of these grand flowers might do worse than send for his catalogue.

I have already alluded to the ornithological treat I had among our native birds, such a treat as I have not enjoyed for several years, and must now, without further digression, pass on to a few notes of my second visit.

* * *

MR. LEWIS'S AVIARIES: The aviaries here are not individually of large size, but numerous, well planned and very practical; consisting, as will be seen from the accompanying plates, of shelter, covered and open flights, the latter portion being turfed and containing one or more growing shrubs. Mr. Lewis has found the handsome evergreen conifer *Cupressus floribunda*, not only a quick grower, but also to supply admirable cover for the birds, while adding materially to the general effect. The fittings and general arrangements are also good and well arranged, both so as to be readily accessible for the renewal of supplies and their contents not easily fouled by the birds. With the environment of a large country garden, the aviaries are not merely interesting but also very effective in appearance, especially the smaller aviaries, Nos. 1, 2 and 3. The kindly courtesy and hospitality of Mr. and Miss Lewis made my visit a most enjoyable one, which, with avicultural gossip, viewing the aviaries and birds, made the time pass all too rapidly, and my visit very enjoyable and interesting.

Aviary No. 1. The numbering of the aviaries coincides with the numbers placed on photographic reproductions, there-

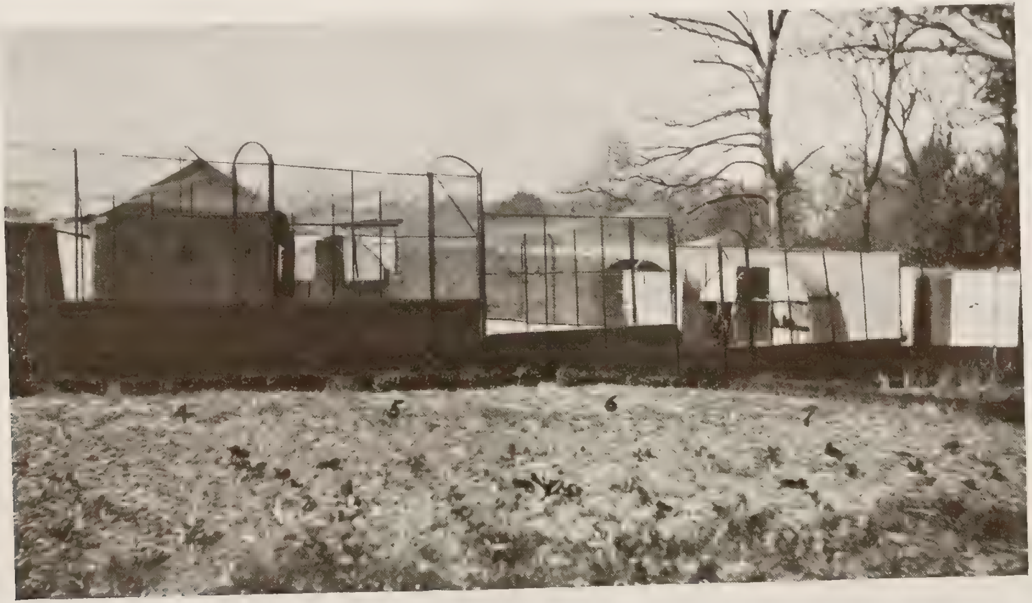


Photo by Mrs. Lewis.

Mr. Lewis's Aviaries, Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8.

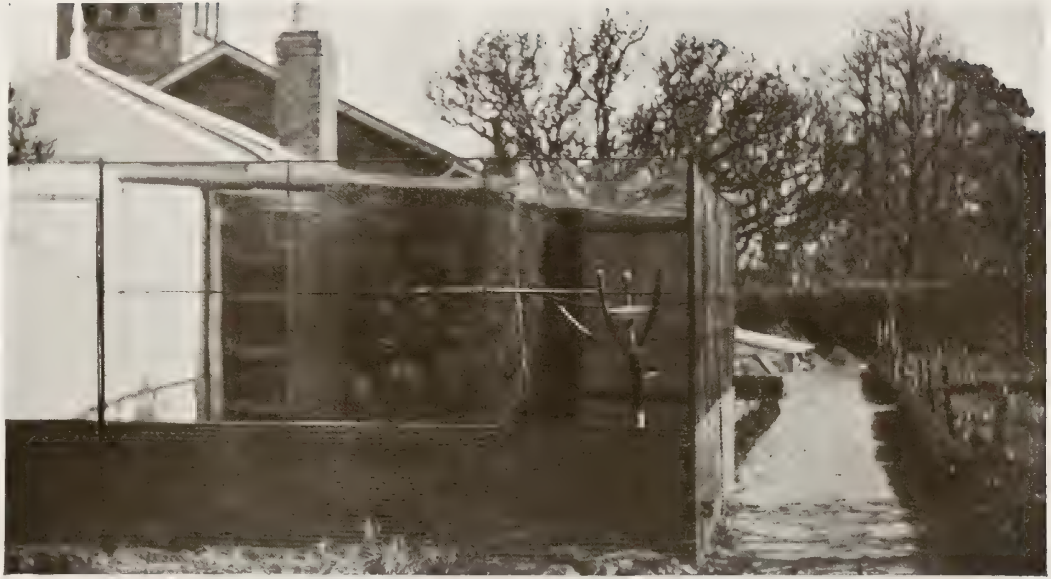


Photo by Mrs. Lewis.

Mr. Lewis's Aviary No. 3.

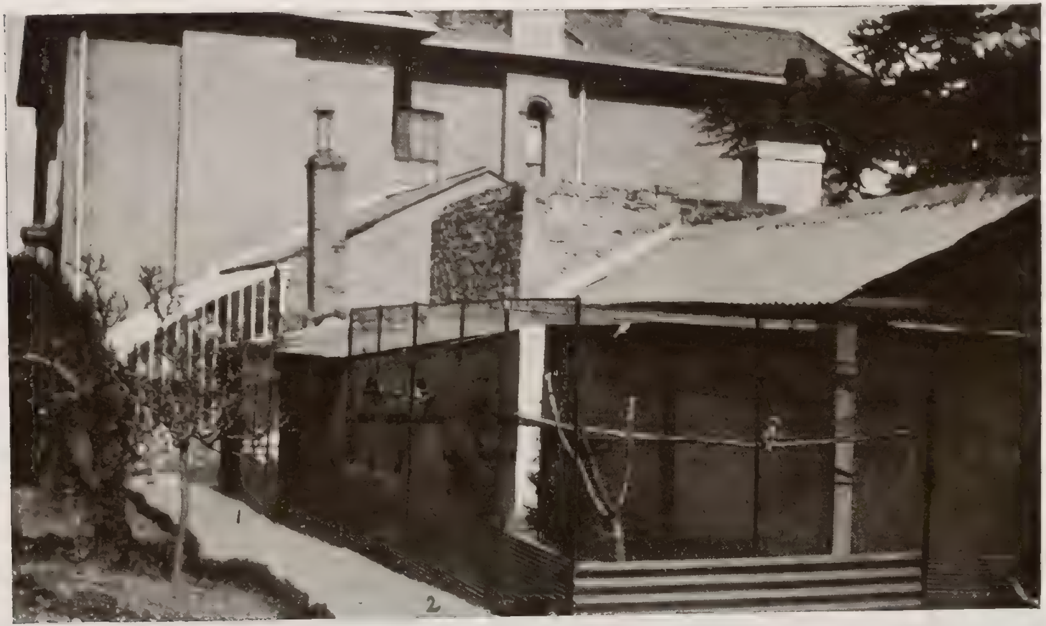


Photo by Mrs. Lewis.

Mr. Lewis's Aviaries Nos. 1 and 2.

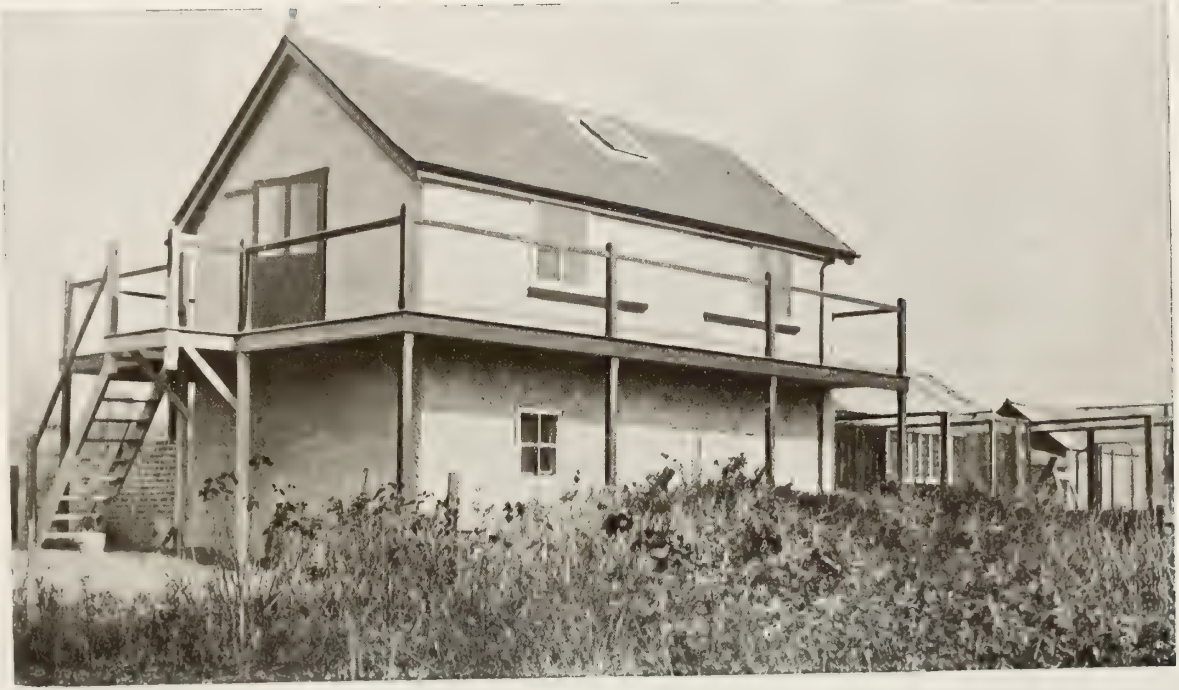


Photo by H. Willford.

Mr. Willford's Birdrooms.

fore descriptions of the various aviaries will be unnecessary; the illustrations, with my opening remarks being self explanatory. This aviary is 18 ft. long, 4½ ft. deep and 6 ft. high, and contains 1 pair Cockateels (*Calopsittacus novæ-hollandiæ*) and 2 pairs each Green Budgerigars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*) and Madagascar Lovebirds (*Agapornis cana*). All being in the best of condition and giving indications of early broods.

Aviary No. 2, 15ft. × 8ft. × 6ft.: Containing an interesting series of well known birds, all looking very fit and tight and sleek in plumage:—

4 Saffron Finches (*Sycalis flaveola*).
2 Zebra ,, (*Tæniopygia castanotis*).
3 Ribbon ,, (*Amadina fasciata*).
2 Pekin Robins (*Liothrix luteus*).
2 Pintail Whydahs (*Vidua principalis*).
2 Paradise Whydahs (*Steganura paradisea*).
2 Red-headed Finches (*Amadina erythrocephala*).
2 White Javas with young (*Munia oryzivora var. alba*).
2 Tricolour Mannikins (*Munia malacca*).
2 Bronzewing ,, (*Spermestes cucullata*).
4 Avadavats (*Sporæginthus amandava*).
2 Cordon Bleus (*Estrilda phœnicotis*).
4 Bengalese (*Uroloncha domestica*).
Pair Bramblefinches (*Fringilla montifringilla*).
♂ Pintail Nonpareil (*Erythrura prasina*).
3 Peaceful Doves (*Geopelia tranquilla*).
Pair Chinese Painted Quail (*Excalfactoria chinensis*).

Quite an attractive crowd of the, so-called, common species; all looked very fit and should breed. The variety of form and colouring of such a series as the above makes an interesting and pleasing spectacle, especially when seen amid semi-natural surroundings; yet all are well known species and do not call for individual description in these notes.

Aviary No. 3, 13ft. × 12ft. × 6ft.: A well arranged and handsome aviary (*see plate*), with admirable shelter, a good portion of turf and a well grown bush of *Cupressus floribunda*, very dense and forming good cover, among which some of its interesting occupants should breed. Here were gathered together pairs of:

Black-headed Gouldian Finches (*Pœphila gouldii*).
Crimson Finch (*Neochmia phaeton*).

Parrot Finches (*Erythrura psittacea*).
Long-tail Grassfinches (*Poephila acuticauda*).
Rufous-tail ,, (*Bathilda ruficauda*).
Pectoral Finches (*Munia pectoralis*).
Red-headed Lovebirds (*Agapornis pullaria*).
Blue-winged ,, (*Psittacula passerina*).
Diamond Doves (*Geopelia cuneata*).
Harlequin Quail (*Coturnix delegorguei*).

Another series giving a very fine spectacular effect, the beautiful plumage being admirably shown off against the green foliage. I shall expect to hear of breeding results from this series.

Aviary No. 4: Contained a fine series of Yellow Fantail Pigeons, which are outside the scope of these notes.

Aviary No. 5, 20 ft. × 10 ft. × 6 ft.: Containing three very fine Senegal Parrots (*Pœocephalus senegalus*), and an exceptionally fine pair of Golden Crowned Conures (*Conurus aureus*), living together in perfect amity. Most certainly outdoor life suits these species as their fine condition abundantly testified.

Aviary No. 6, 16 ft. × 8 ft. × 9 ft.: Here were on view three Triangular Spotted Pigeons (*Columba guinea*), brought by Mr. Lewis's son from Nigeria (six or seven hundred miles from the coast) early in 1908. These birds are of very great interest, and though they have had to face the blizzards and severe weather of March, were in exquisite plumage and are certainly very handsome. This species ranges over Western Africa, Central Africa and extends up to Abyssinia, Sennaar and Kordofan.

The general body colour is ashy-grey; the neck is vinous-red, with the tips of the feathers bifid and hoary, glossed greenish; the back and wings are mostly vinous-chestnut, the wings thickly spotted with pure white triangular spots; the tail is grey with a good portion of white on the outer webs; beak, blackish horn colour; feet red; bare skin round eye, intense red.

During the small time I was in the aviary, close observation was not easy, as though not wild, they were on the move most of the time, but I am of the opinion they are two males and one female. This species has successfully reared young on several occasions at the London Zoological Gardens. This aviary also contained very fine pairs of Brush Bronze-wing Pigeons and

Plumed Ground Doves, which from their fine condition should breed this season. Having been out of doors all through the past trying winter, the latter species can no longer be accounted either fragile or delicate.

Aviary No. 7, 16 ft. × 12 ft. × 6 ft.: This aviary contained pairs of Red-crested and Green Cardinals, and odd males of Grenadier, Madagascar, Napoleon, and Half-masked Weavers, also a Red-shouldered Whydah. Most of my readers are well acquainted with these birds, and the Weavers when in nuptial plumage would make a grand display indeed, both these and the Whydahs having ample space for exercise, and they exhibit their full beauty under such conditions.

Aviary No. 8, 14 ft. × 13 ft. × 6 ft. This aviary is one of a series of eight which traverse the entire length of one side of the garden; and, in spite of an easterly aspect, all the occupants appeared to be very fit and comfortable. Each aviary supplies ample shelter and nesting accommodation for their respective occupants without their crowding on one another's preserves. Living together in amity were the following species:—

Pair Many-Coloured Parrakeets (*Psephotus multicolor*).
Pair Blossom-headed ,, (*Palæornis cyanocephala*).
2 pairs Black-cheeked Lovebirds (*Agapornis nigrigenis*).
2 pairs Yellow Budgerigars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*).

These all appeared very fit, if alertness, tight and silken plumage, count for anything at all, and they certainly should breed. I have never seen finer specimens than the pair of Blossom-heads, their deep and rich colouring and lovely bloom over the whole plumage I have never seen surpassed; during my visit the weather was rather dull and cloudy, and they would appear more beautiful still under better weather conditions and bright sunshine.

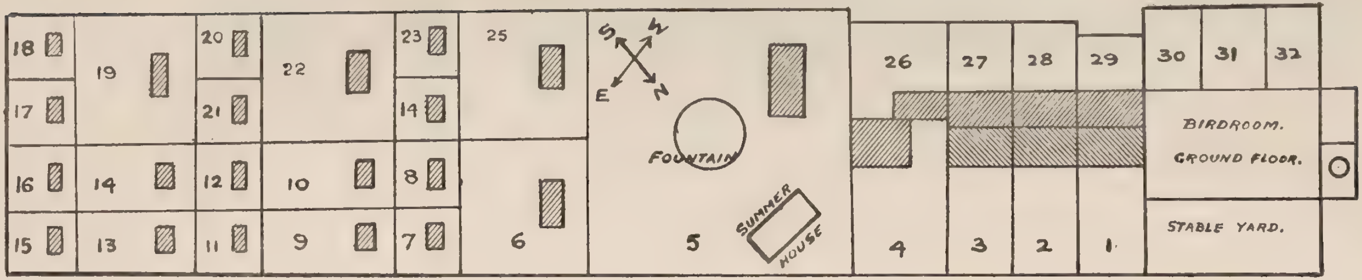
Aviaries Nos. 9, 10 and 11, each 20 ft. × 12 ft. × 6 ft: Contained Silver, Gold, and Amherst Pheasants respectively. These birds, especially the Silver, were very rich in hue, the colours being very pure and the markings and pencilling very clear—they were a feast of beauty—they breed annually.

Mr. Lewis's losses have been very few, it could not very well be otherwise considering the accommodation they enjoy and the attention they receive, and also the pure air which they breathe. The small birds are fed on canary, white, brown and spray millet, green food, and mealworms regularly, for such as will take them, with soft food when they have young to feed. The larger species get mixed corn and seed and the Parrot tribe fruit as well. Mr. Lewis is to be congratulated on his interesting series of birds, which are seen to good advantage in his practical and well kept aviaries.

* * *

MR. WILLFORD'S AVIARIES: These have been already described to some extent in the previous Volume, but their extent has been but faintly indicated. The large area under wire might fairly and without exaggeration be termed a Bird Paradise; their natural condition, turfed and planted with evergreen and deciduous shrubs, creepers, etc., that their fortunate occupants practically enjoy natural conditions and the breeding results should be very large. In fact, while walking through the aviaries I noticed that nearly all the evergreen bushes had been used for nesting sites, and in several instances they had already got as far as eggs. A few days ago I received a card from Mr. Willford, "All my Australian finches are nesting"; and, after seeing the arrangements, the statement did not occasion me any surprise. It will be seen from the accompanying ground plan, that the aviaries succeed one another, having intercommunication, as well as separate entrances from the exterior.

THE BIRDROOMS: Of these there are two, the birdroom proper (*vide plate*) is well arranged and fitted, many of the flights being sufficiently large for breeding purposes, and the smallest cages gave ample space for exercise. Light, ventilation, etc. appeared to be as near perfect as anything of the kind I have yet seen. A radiator large enough to keep up an even temperature during severe weather occupied a fairly central position. A glazed sink with water laid on completed the arrangements. The second room is a converted stable on the ground floor, with three tiers of roomy cages, standing on stages, round three of its walls.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BIRDROOM.
GROUND FLOOR.
STABLE YARD.

GROUND PLAN MR. WILLFORD'S AVIARIES.

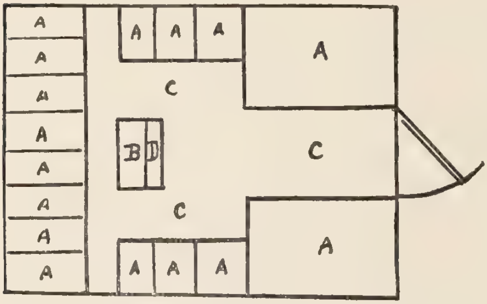
Aviaries 1, 2 and 3 approx. 25ft. × 6ft.
„ 4, 9, 19, 22 and 25 approx. 25ft. square.
„ 5 approx. 50ft. square.
„ 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24, 27, 28 and 29 approx. 12ft. square.
„ 26 approx. 15ft. × 12ft.
„ 30, 31 and 32 approx. 18ft. × 6ft.

The shaded areas represent the shelter sheds in each enclosure or aviary.

The above plan is not to scale, but fairly proportionate, as to the respective areas.

Height of aviaries 12ft.

THE BIRDROOM PROPER OR UPPER BIRDROOM contained the following, taken in the order of a walk round, from left to right.



UPPER BIRDROOM.

A. Flights. B. Sink. C. Gangway. D. Radiator.

The first flight, about 6 ft. × 5 ft. × 6 ft., contained a pair of Purple-capped Lories (*Lorius domicella*), in lovely colour and condition, and from the appearance of the hen she was evidently about to lay. Mr. Willford has been very fortunate in having some old fruit trees, which had been grubbed out because they were exhausted; all these trunks had rotten cores and have supplied admirable material for natural nest logs, and each Parrakeet flight and aviary is well equipped with these. The next flight of similar size contaned a pair of Many-Coloured Parrakeets (*Psephotus multicolor*), fast coming into beautiful colour and condition. Now succeed more than a dozen flights about 3 ft. square by about the same height, containing: pair Ariel Toucans, looking very fine and handsome in their contrasting and brilliant plumage; ♀ King Parrakeet (*Aprosmictus cyanopygius*), very beautiful; one pair very brilliant Stanley Parrakeet (*Platycercus icterotis*), this is not merely a beautiful species, but for the aviculturist one of the most interesting of the *Platycerci;* one pair Brown's Parrakeets (*P. browni*), very uncommon and a very handsome Broadtail, Mr. Willford is to be congratulated on the possession of so rare a species; two immature Crimson-winged Parrakeets (*Psittes erythropterus*); about a score of Bengalese and one very fine Lavender Finch; one pair Black-cheeked Lovebirds (*Agapornis nigrigenis*) with young; 1 pair Blue-bonnet Parrakeets (*Psephotus hæmatorhous*) very beautiful; pairs each of Rosella (*P. eximus*) and Pennant's Parrakeets (*P. elegans*) very rich in colour, will probably breed as soon as they are put out. In slightly smaller flights, about 2 ft. square and of similar height, were pairs of Ring-necked Parrakeets (*Palœornis torquata*), have never seen finer birds than this pair, either for colour or tight and silken plumage: Blue Mountain Lorikeets (*Trichoglossus novœ-hollandiœ*), ♀ Many-Colour, Olive Finch (♂), Scarlet Cardinal (♂) and a pair of Quail Finches.

In the LOWER BIRDROOM the numerous flight cages contained, among others, the following:—Mealy Rosellas (*P. pallidiceps*), Rock-Pebbler Parrakeets (*Polytelis melanura*), very uncommon; Red-headed, Olive Cuba, Parrot, Green Singing, Grey Singing, Spice, Saffron, Zebra, Ribbon, and White-throated Finches; White-headed and Bronze-wing Mannikins; Chopi and Mexican Glossy Starlings; Black Tanager, ♀ Dhyal Bird, Rufous-necked, Red-billed and Russ's Weavers, Silky Cowbirds; Red-vented Bulbuls and Grey Java Sparrows; all looking very fit and will show to much better advantage when turned out into the open, as soon as the respective enclosures are properly furnished for them. I have done but poor justice to these two rooms and their inmates, but these notes would be altogether too lengthy had I permitted myself to describe only the more uncommon species. We shall, however, hope during the season to get notes from Mr. Willford's pen of many of the species so briefly passed in review above.

Many of the outdoor aviaries numbered in ground plan are as yet unoccupied; as soon as their planting and furnishings are complete and the weather fairly settled many of the species noted as occupants of the birdrooms will be turned out to the enjoyment of semi-liberty amid natural surroundings.

Aviary No. 1: contained one of the finest pairs of Yellow-naped (Twenty-eight) Parrakeets I have seen; these should certainly breed.

Aviary No. 2: Two pairs of Cockateels and a pair of Madagascar Lovebirds; one pair of the Cockateels were incubating and the others had young.

Aviary No. 4: Crested Pigeons (*Ocyphaps lophotes*) had constructed a really artistic nest in a laurel bush and were incubating. Zebra Finches also had nests.

Aviary No. 5: This is really a grand enclosure, containing a large shelter shed, a large rustic summer-house and a fountain, the whole area is turfed and planted with laurels, conifers, spruce, while creepers adorn the standards supporting the wire-netting. Here were gathered a fine series of birds, very many of which were on nesting intent. I noticed Peaceful, Aurita, Passerine, Diamond and Dwarf Turtle Doves; Crimson and Green Cardinals; Green Singing finches; Waxbills in variety; Combassous; Spermophilæ; White-cheeked and Curl-crested Bulbuls, Saffron Finches, Black-headed Buntings, Chinese Painted Quails and many others. Most of the numerous bushes contained nests.

Aviary No. 6: Here I noted Pileated Finches; Curl-crested Bulbuls; Aurora, Crimson, Pectoral and Red-headed Finches; Ruficauda and Long-tailed Grassfinches and a very interesting pair of Cuban Quails. All in the very best of health and most on nesting bent.

Aviary No. 7: This contained a crowd of healthy and well feathered Green Budgerigars.

Aviary No. 8: Given up to a pair of Stanley Parrakeets (*Platycercus icterotis*). I have never seen the brilliant scarlet of the male surpassed, it caught the eye on every side as the bird flitted to and fro in a very abandon of joyousness.

Aviary No. 23: Devoted to a very fine pair of Red-rumps—engaged in incubation.

Aviary No. 24: Occupied by a crowd of richly coloured and well feathered Yellow Budgerigars.

Aviary No. 25: Another very interesting group, consisting of pairs of: Chinese Spectacle Thrushes with nest; Red-crested Cardinals; Pelzeln's Saffron Finches; Cinnamon Sparrows; Ruddy-shouldered Troupials, Aurita Doves and White Java Sparrows.

Aviary No. 26: An apparently very happy crowd, many of them singing the nuptial song, some already with nests and eggs. Masked Grassfinches; Pope Cardinals; Ringed, Striated and Cherry Finches; Cordon Bleus; Plumed Ground Doves (*Lophophaps plumifera*) and Green Singing Finches; the latter with nest and eggs.

I trust the foregoing account of three of our members' aviaries, though taking largely catalogue form, will not have wearied my readers. If they only give a tithe of the interest I enjoyed while gathering mental and written notes, they will not have been penned in vain.

Just on completing the above a note comes to hand from Mr. Willford, giving a list of such of his birds as have already nests or nests and eggs. I quote same without reference to what I have already written. Red-headed Finches, Pectoral Quails and Cockateels, all have young, while Gouldian Finches, Long-tail Grassfinches, Diamond Sparrows, Green Cardinals, Redrump and Stanley Parrakeets are all busy incubating. The first lot of Green Singing Finches' eggs "came to grief," but they have domed their nest and are sitting again. Mr. Willford has promised nesting notes for a near, probably next, issue, which should contain many interesting details, and I trust he will also amplify and correct where necessary the very disconnected account of his aviaries given herewith, and I hope Messrs. Mathias and Lewis will do the same.

Book Notices and Reviews.

THE BIRDS OF THE BRITISH ISLANDS. By Charles Stonham, C.M.G., F.R.C.S., F.Z.S., with illustrations by L. M. Medland, F.Z.S. Parts IX., X., XII. and XIII. Royal Quarto. Grant Richards.

The excellence of the earlier numbers of this beautiful work is even more than maintained in the parts under review. Mr. Stonham is an ornithologist of the painstaking type that leaves nothing of material interest untouched: his personal acquaintance with our British Birds might well be envied by the best of us; and moreover the pages of his classic give overwhelming evidence of his industrious research.

PART IX. deals with our three Harriers, the Buzzards, the Golden and Sea Eagles, the Goshawk and Sparrow-hawk, the Kite, the Honey-Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*), and the Greenland and Peregrine Falcons. In connection with the Marsh Harrier the interesting fact is noted that while the hen is incubating, the male bird feeds her by dropping food to her while he hovers in the air. Montagu's Harrier has, it appears, a somewhat similar habit. When the male brings food the female rises to meet him, and catches the food in the air as he drops it, returning at once to her nest to satisfy her hunger.

Miss Medland is as much at home in depicting the saturnine majesty of the Accipitres as she was with the silky gracefulness of the Warblers, and when we come to her drawings of the Hobby and Kestrel in PART X. we have a still further exposition of her powers of discrimination between the expressions of different birds of even the same genus. The writer in his younger days has kept several specimens of both these birds in captivity, and, on seeing the talented artist's portraiture of them, well recalls the benevolent pensiveness of the Hobby as contrasted with the grim sternness of the Kestrel.

After the Phalacrocoracidæ and Sulidæ, represented respectively by the Cormorant and Shag and the Gannet, we come to the Ardeidæ, among which we note an article on the Purple Heron, accompanied by a figure of the bird, thus evidencing the catholicity of our Author, which is even more emphatically shewn by notices and plates of the White Stork and Glossy Ibis, both of these being only occasional migrants to our shores.

PART XI. has unfortunately not come to hand, so no notice of it can be given.

PART XII. is particularly interesting to both the purely field naturalist and the peculiar compound so often met with as half naturalist and half gunner, in as much as it deals with about a dozen of the Anatidæ, beginning with the Ferruginous Duck and ending with the Smew. One of these birds, the Tufted Duck (*Fuligula cristata*), affords a remarkable instance of the changes that may occur in a bird's habits and range. We all know—unfortunately—of those changes which take the form of nearly total extinction of a species, *videlicet* the Dartford Warbler and the Raven, but in this case it is the other way about. Whereas this duck was only first recognised as breeding on the lake at Port Hall, Nottinghamshire, some sixty or seventy years ago, as many as forty pairs nested on this lake alone in 1906, and it is now found to breed in at least eleven other counties in England, besides being very commonly distributed in both Ireland and Scotland, where also it is increasing in numbers.

The illustrations in this part are particularly pleasing. The duck on water, as we usually see it portrayed, is only too often a beautifully modelled piece of wood. Miss Medland's ducks are alive.

In this number, which by the way closes VOLUME III., is published a provisional list of subscribers. These so far reach the goodly number of close on nine hundred, a result which shows how a really good book is appreciated, in spite of its not being issued at a popular price and advertized in the approved manner of the *Times* newspaper.

PART XIII. opens with the Columbidae, a family which, as may be readily imagined, especially lends itself to the seductions of our artist's brush. But she may fairly be said to have surpassed herself with the Sand Grouse, perhaps the most difficult bird in all creation of which to make a picture, which shall at the same time be absolutely true to nature and yet artistic. Following this bird come the Capercaillie, Black Grouse, Red Grouse, Ptarmigan, Pheasant, Partridge, French Partridge and Quail. Each and all of these birds are treated with Mr. Stonham's usual carefulness and attention to detail, while the boldness and beauty of their presentments make for the opinion that each part of this valuable work exceeds its predecessor in interest.

Editorial.

A GROUP OF INTERESTING ACQUISITIONS: Our esteemed member Mr. O. Millsum has added to his already fine and large series of birds the following species, and to make the note of general interest I have added a few notes as to wild life, etc.

BLUE-WINGED SIVA (*Siva cyanuroptera*): It is now quite a number of years ago since I first noticed the pair of this species which my esteemed friend Mr. E. W. Harper presented to the Zoo. This pair were the first living specimens exhibited in this country; beautiful as this species is the numbers which have since reached our shores could be counted on the fingers of one hand, which is a distinct loss to aviculture, as it is a most desirable species—beautiful, tame, and having the engaging Babbler habits or rather demeanour. Jerdon calls this the Blue-winged Hill Tit. It is ruddy fawn on the upper parts, light grey underneath; top of head blue streaked with grey; the larger wing feathers are blue, edged and tipped with white; tail mostly blue with white tips; beak horn grey, brownish at the base. Total length 6 inches, tail 2½ inches. It is found in the Himalayas at an altitude of from 3000 to 6000 feet, and should do well in this country as they have to contend with a similar temperature.

SILVER-EARED MESIA (*Mesia argentauris*): This also was first introduced to this country by Mr. Harper, and I noticed it at the same time as the preceding species, and then described it as a "glorified Liothrix" and this term about meets the case. It is a bold, handsome and enduring species if properly treated. The silvery ear-coverts are lovely indeed, the colour areas, except for the head are very similar to those of the Pekin Robin, but the hues are more intense. So far they have not been bred in this country, though two abortive attempts have been made at the London Zoo, the young being partly reared in each instance. It is found at a lower elevation than the Siva and needs more careful "hardening off." Mr. E. W. Harper while in India kept Sivas, Mesias, Yellow-eyed Babblers, Sibias, and Common Babblers all in the same enclosure, so that in a suitable sized and constructed aviary these should agree well together, but they would require space in the breeding season.

BLUE WHISTLING THRUSH (*Myiophoneus temmincki*) : This is a truly grand species in its azure plumage for those who can give it roomy accommodation to display its beauties and sing its glorious song. Once over the hardships of the voyage to this country it is not difficult to keep fit (vide notes Vol. VII. of this journal.)

ORANGE-HEADED THRUSH (*Geocichla citrina*) : This is not only a grand songster but a beautiful and really very desirable bird in every way. The upper surface is greenish-blue, while the head and undersurface is of a soft orange colour. When he is standing erect, as I saw him only a day or two ago at the Zoo pouring out his rich, full notes, he is a handsome fellow indeed and a centre of attraction in any series.

Mr. Millsum is indeed to be congratulated on such lovely acquisitions, and it is hoped he will be able to arrange such quarters for the true pairs as will give them a reasonable chance to reproduce their kind.

* * *

NESTING NOTES: Very few of these have come to hand so far; those from Mr. Willford, who has certainly made a good beginning and appears likely to enjoy a very successful avicultural season (see end of "Easter Trips, etc."). My pair of Grey-winged Ouzels have been very busy, they have discarded the nest which I described in March issue, and have built a second nest, inside a parrakeet nest box, and now (May 3rd) have three eggs, of which I have only had the merest glimpse; these appear to be greyish-green in colour, thickly speckled and blotched with ruddy-brown. The hen is sitting closely, only leaving the nest at mealworm time. Diamond Doves are incubating, as also are the small S. American Ground Doves (*Champœlia grisea*). All these three instances show how readily most species adapt themselves to a strange environment. In the natural aviaries of my esteemed friend Mr. Teschemaker, they refuse to avail themselves of any nesting receptacle, but build in the trees and shrubs; I noticed this was also the case in Mr. Willford's aviaries, yet in my aviaries where trees and shrubs are not available, after one or two experiments they have learned that to build in the branches is only to court failure, and for two seasons the Diamond Doves have nested in boxes and logs with large front openings. *C. grisea*, though only bred in Mr. Teschemaker's natural aviaries last season, have availed themselves at once of a small square box, the front of which is almost entirely open.

Mr. Teschemaker has had some very early nesting attempts, but, owing to the blizzards and severe weather, none of these have come to anything. Most of the birds are now, however, making their second attempt, and we shall hope to hear of many successes in our next issue.

* * *

ERRATA: Two vexatious printer's errors have crept into last issue, page 54, line 6, "This bird is yellow," should read The beak is yellow; page 60, New Arrivals at the Zoo, line 3, "The Cartagenian Motnot" should read The Cartegenian Motmot.

Bird Notes from Far and Near.

A SOUTHERN CALIFORNIAN AVIARY. In "Bird Lore," July and August, 1907, appears a very interesting account by H. L. Sefton, of the aviary of J. W. Sefton, San Diego, California; the article is illustrated with three excellent photographic reproductions showing the aviary and also its inmates, as well as illustrating the beauty of its semi-tropical surroundings. From this account I have compiled the following, which I am sure will interest many readers, as indicating the methods and experience of a Californian aviculturist.

The aviary has a floor area 20 ft. by 40 ft., it is entirely open, save for the west and north end and a strip of roofing about 12 ft. wide, which runs the whole length of the building. The flight is constructed of framing and one-fourth inch square mesh wire netting; a wire partition runs through the centre, separating the small birds from their larger kin. The arrangements and fittings appear to be as perfect as possible—pools of running water—low growing shrubs—swings and perches of every kind. . . By importing and other means, a large, varied and interesting series have been gathered together. The writer states: We have raised birds which the books say never bred in captivity; how? By anticipating their wants and giving them as near as possible a natural environment. . . Thus, some never carry twigs, therefore they don't build nests. For those we supply trunks of trees cut in sections and hollowed out. . . We have reared hundreds of Grass Parrakeets. . . Rose Cockatoos have bred and reared a brood of five, which have since been followed by others. . . Cockateels are handsome grey birds and very prolific. We have also the brilliant King Parrot, a peaceable, elegant bird, the mischievous, gorgeously coloured Lory, with his acrobatic stunts; the Pink-crested Cockaoto and other varieties. . . Among the larger birds we have Bronze, Crested and Bleeding-heart Pigeons. . . Of Doves we have the rare and beautiful Blue-eyed Zebra of Australia and the Pink-eyed Pekin of China, the latter is the smallest Dove known, being only about the size of a Norwich Canary, but having a longer tail.

The Finches are a study in themselves. We have the Strawberry, Black-throats, and others too numerous to mention. The Black-throats* have bred, they fill a box with wild dried grass and build nest at one end, the eggs are usually four in number, the young stay in the nest until fully feathered, and never return to the nest after their first flight.

" A friend said I see you have a Brazilian Cardinal; does he sing? I told him the bird was apparently dumb. Strange! he said. Why in their native home they are wonderful singers. . . then occurred a remarkable thing. The man, whispering to me to watch the bird, drew close to the wire, uttering a low, peculiar whistle. Instantly the Cardinal seemed to awaken, his crest lifted, he seemed to be whistling; then, as the whistle continued, he answered sharply, eagerly, flew over to a perch by the side of the wire from whence came the whistle, and broke forth into a perfect torrent of melody." . . . This occurred often during the traveller's visits, but when these ceased the bird became silent again and in a few months died.

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* ? Bib-finches. W.T.P.

The Redbird or Cardinal is remarkably handsome, but of a very jealous disposition. . . Two pairs cannot be kept in the same enclosure. . . The male is a fine songster, he is a Caruso. . . They build fine nests, lay eggs and hatch their young, but never raise them.

"One can learn much from the study of birds. They teach us virtue, generosity, kindness, gratitude—all those things that go to make living worth while. Many would glance at those birds, perhaps see nothing in them and pass on; others would be attracted by their plumage, by their song, by the beautiful whole of the great cage, with its topical setting fitted with life and song; but the student, he who sits and watches and studies can learn much."

The birds do not, except on rare occasions, hybridise. Each stays by his or her mate, each bearing their share of the burden and responsibility of the family. . . They are generous to the stranger that alights on the wire. . . Surely it shows kindness to feed a nestful of half-starved babies they never saw before, and I have seen that done; four young Linnets, half grown, some cruel boys had taken from their nest and left on the side walk to die, not knowing what to do with them I put them in the aviary and wanted to see what would happen. . . The young birds called and down came a Linnet and examined them and flew to the food tray, ate greedily, and then fed those young birds till they were satisfied. . . They were reared to maturity. . . Could there be greater kindness than this?

"With over 600 birds to feed, the question of proper food is no small one. We mix in large bins, built for the purpose, our own seeds, buying direct from the importers and accepting only clean, bright seed. We use mostly canary and millet, with a little hemp in winter (which is very fattening), some sunflower seed, wheat and cracked corn. We have little rustic tables on which twice a day the seed is placed, and each bird takes what best suits his fancy. We always have cuttlebone and crushed shell scattered about, and once a week a little plate of raw ground beef is put on each side; those that need the meat eat it, others leave it alone."

"Our family, large as it is, is a happy one; there is little or no quarrelling, for there is plenty of food and room for all,—only at eventide . . . they scold a little . . . one unmindful of the rights of others, has chosen the limb or corner that belongs to someone else, and for a few moments there is discord—for each bird has his or her sleeping place—but gradually there steals a silence, and as the night shadows creep softly, from out of the west comes a crescent moon, that, peeping down shyly through the branches of the camphor tree, sees only the great cage with no signs of life within."

The foregoing is only the briefest abstract from a most interesting article, which amply illustrates, that given plenty of space, Parrakeets, large and small, can be kept together and will breed under such conditions. For instance here are two aviaries, or rather, one divided into two 20 ft. by 20 ft. each, and each containing about 300 birds, which are happy, thriving and well, so much that even in such numbers many of them reproduce their kind. W. T. P.

Compiled from "Bird Lore."

The Month's Arrivals.

The most interesting event during the present month has been the arrival of Major B. R. Horsbrugh's birds from South Africa, which reached the Zoological Society's Gardens on 14th April. I well recollect the pleasure it gave me to examine the birds imported by the same aviculturist three years since. That importation was, however, to some extent a financial speculation and included a large series of such species as the Violet-eared and Black-cheeked Waxbills, Scaly-fronted Finches, Quail Finches, etc. The present collection is a much smaller one, and I understand that Major Horsbrugh is now going to reside in this country and will retain almost all his birds for his own aviary. Included in this collection are four very interesting species, all of which are probably "first arrivals." We will take these first.

Black-fronted Bulbul (*Pycnonotus nigricans*). This handsome Bulbul has been presented to the Zoological Society and may now be seen in the Western Aviary. It is a male and, in addition to the ordinary chuckling notes of the Bulbul family, has a rather pretty piping refrain. It closely resembles the Syrian Bulbul, but has a bright orange-red cere round the eye and the whole ventral region is of the same colour. The bird is in quite perfect condition and it was delightful to watch it singing and flitting about in the sunlight. Of the four South African Bulbuls two (*P. tricolor* and *P. layardi*) have the eyelid feathered, and two (*P. capensis* and *P. nigricans*) have the eyelid bare and wattle-like. They are far from popular in the Transvaal, where they do great damage to the fig and apricot crops. Habitat: Central Cape Colony.

Crested Barbet (*Trachyphonus cafer*). This rare and striking species is found on the Crocodile River. It is about the size of a large Hawfinch, has a black crest, pale yellow beak tipped with dull red, a yellow throat, below which, across the whole width of the chest, extends a large black crescent. The abdomen is yellow, the rump red and the back black, spotted and barred with white. It has a low whistle. The two specimens now imported look like males and may be seen in the New Bird House. The South African Barbets nest in holes in trees and lay white eggs. They are chiefly insectivorous but occasionally consume fruit.

The Cape White-eye (*Zosterops pallida*). Of this family South Africa possess four species, two of which (*Z. virens* and *Z. capensis*) are common. The resemblance of the South African to the Asiatic forms, such as the Chinese White-eye, is striking but, as it is an historical fact than an Australian *Zosterops* actually succeeded in crossing the 1200 odd miles of open sea that divides Australia from New Zealand (where the species now flourishes), there can be nothing improbable in the conjecture that an Asiatic species may have found its way to the Dark Continent. Those of us who have kept *Zosterops* well know that they are delicate little birds, and I was not at all surprised to hear that Major Horsbrugh had lost three out of five on the way home. *Z. pallida* is dull olive-green on the back and pale buff on the breast, only the throat and under tail-coverts being yellow.

In the Central Transvaal they may often be seen sipping the nectar of the flowers of the Eucalyptus, but they are also very partial to ripe fruit.

Red-capped Lark (*Tephrocorys cinerea*). This slim and graceful bird looks more like a Pipit than a Lark. It is now in the Western Aviary, where it may often be seen perched on the highest shelf of the brickwork. It is about the size of a Woodlark; crown, primaries and a singular crescent on each side of breast all rufous; a pale buff streak above the eye.

Three Chestnut-backed Finch-larks (*Pyrrhulauda smithi*). These, together with two Quail-finches, have gone to Mr. St. Quintin. South Africa possesses three species of the Genus *Pyrrhulauda*, namely *P. australis:* ear-coverts black; *P. verticalis:* ear-coverts white, back grey; *P. smithi:* ear-coverts white, back dark chestnut. These are charming little birds (I have two pairs of *P. verticalis* in my own aviary) but they are not such good songsters as some of the Asiatic Finch-larks. They feed on seeds, nest under tufts of grass and congregate in flocks in the winter. *P. smithi* is fairly common in the neighbourhood of Brandfort, Orange River Colony.

Two male and one female Violet-eared Waxbills (*Granatina granatina*): all three in good condition, but the female is absolutely the most perfect specimen I have ever seen.

Two male and three female St. Helena Seedeaters (*C. flaviventris*).

One male and two female Alario Finches.

Two Yellow-rumped Serins (*Serinus angolensis*).

An absolutely perfect pair of Hooded Siskins (*Chrysomitris cucullata*). This of course is a South American species, but the pair were purchased by Major Horsbrugh at Las Palmas on his way home. Not long since I was shown a consignment of no less than fourteen of these charming little birds, but not one was in good feather.

One Yellow-backed Whydah (*Peuthetriopsis macrura*).

Two male White-winged Whydahs (*Urobrachya albonotata*). This is not a "first arrival," although it is a very rarely imported species.

In full plumage the males are black with a bright yellow patch on the wing-coverts, and below this a zone of white extending across the whole width of the wing. These two specimens are in half plumage.

* * * *

Since writing the above I have received a private letter from Major Horsbrugh, who tells me that the collection would have been larger had he not left S. Africa six months sooner than he anticipated. I also hear that some rare Weavers, including *P. taha*, should be added to the above list.

W. E. T.

On the 29th April I noted the following species in the hands of some well-known London dealers:—Masked Wood-Swallows, White-cheeked Colins, Green Sugar-birds, Blue Grosbeaks, a Diuca Finch, Blue-throated Warblers, and last, but by no means least, a Blue-winged Siva. W. E. T.

Post Mortem Reports.

(*Vide Rules*).

For replies by post, a fee of 2/6 *must be sent;* this regulation will not be broken under any condition.

The Hon. Mary Hawke, Dr. Hetley, Lady Pennant and W. R. Temple answered by post.

COCK WHITE-THROAT. (Mrs. Warren Vernon.) Cause of death, pneumonia and enlarged liver.

HEN GREEN CARDINAL. (The Hon. M. C. Hawke.) Cause of death, pneumonia.

Photo by W. E. Teschemaker, B.A.

One of Mr. Teschemaker's Aviaries in Winter Garb.

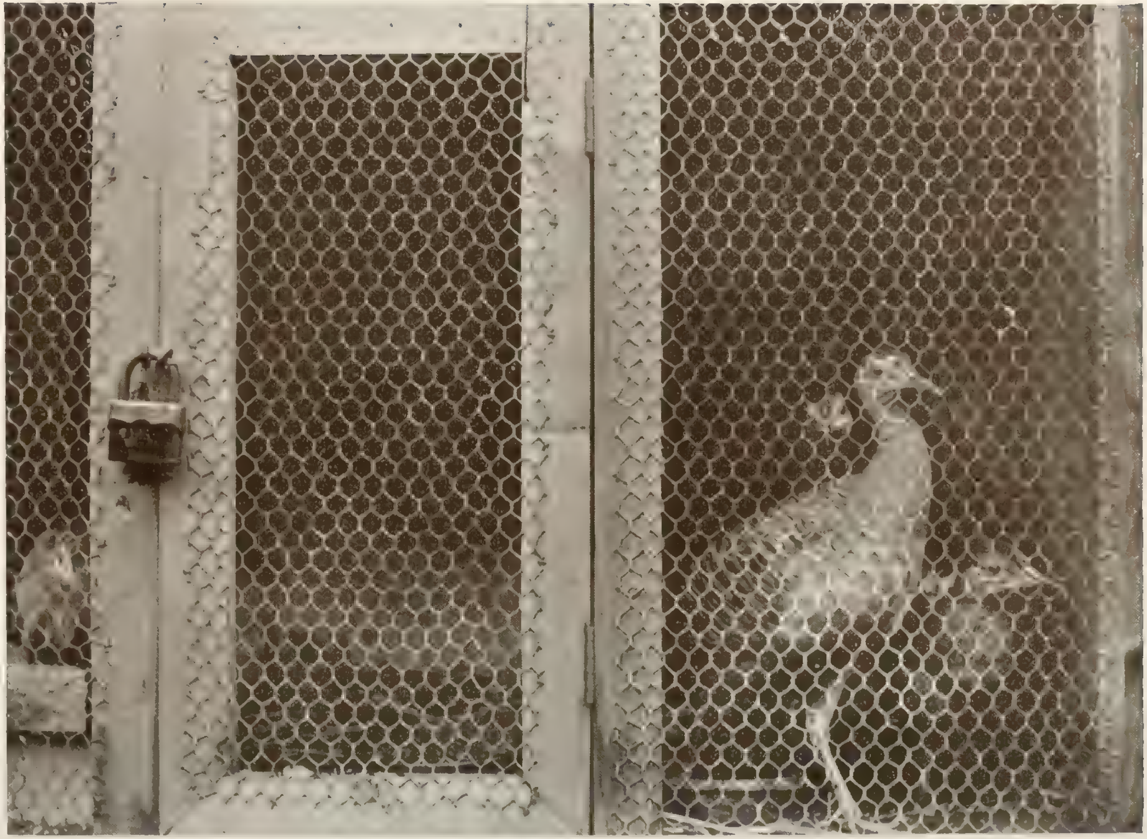


Photo by W. E. Teschemaker, B.A.

Great Tinamous (*Rhyncotus rufescens*) in travelling crate.

All rights reserved.]   JUNE, 1909.

BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Rufous Tinamou.

(*Rhyncotus rufescens*).

By W. E. TESCHEMAKER, B.A.

Some years since I had an argument with a relative of mine, who has made his home near Buenos Ayres, he upholding the claims of the duck and game-shooting of the Argentine, and the writer maintaining that no game-bird to be found in any part of the world can give as good sport to the gun as our English Red-grouse or Partridge. The claims of certain Argentine "partridges" were stoutly upheld, and finally my cousin was challenged to send some of the latter home so that they might prove their merits on English soil. I thought no more about the matter until the 15th March last, when I found a letter on my breakfast table informing me that four "Martinéta Partridges" would shortly reach me. One evening, a day or two later, the "partridges" arrived and after dinner we went into the kitchen to have a look at them.

Now the Argentine is a progressive country of large ideas and, knowing my cousin to be a man of large ideas even for the Argentine, I thought it probable that we should find them somewhat more spaciously packed than the unhappy Tanagers and Cardinals which are shipped from South American ports in such quantities, but I was certainly not prepared for what I saw. There in the centre of my small kitchen, which it appeared to entirely fill, was a large packing case (see photo) wired in front, measuring 5 ft. by 3 ft. by 3 ft. and with a stout door securely fastened by huge padlock. Inside the packing case were four large Tinamous in fine condition and wonderfully tame.

I was a little puzzled as to the species to which they belonged. It was obvious they were not the Martineta Tinamou, because this handsome species has a fine crest. These were nearly as large as a hen Pheasant, bright rufous on the sides of the neck, tawny on the breast, the crown with dark brown striations, the back handsomely barred with dark brown, each feather being margined with light buff, the markings being very similar to those of the Great Bustard. Ultimately they were identified as the Rufous Tinamou.

The Tinamous are essentially ground-birds and rarely perch. They vary in size from that of a large Fowl to that of a Quail. Their wings are short, concave and rounded. The *sternum* is long and slender with a well-developed keel. Another characteristic feature is the elementary and functionless tail, which consists of ten weak feathers quite hidden by the tail coverts.

The genus *Tinamus* has ten members which range over almost the whole of South America from Mexico to the barren plains of Patagonia. These ten species differ considerably in their individual habits, some being solitary and some consorting in large coveys, but all are polyandrous. As with the Turnicidæ and some of the Ratidæ, we find the strange condition of the entire duties of incubation and the care of the young being undertaken by the male. The female, after laying one clutch, pairs with another male and takes no further interest in her offspring. It is not at all easy to give a reason for this habit, but, if one were tempted to offer a conjecture, it would be that ground birds are exposed to so many enemies that nature finds it necessary to avail herself of every device to produce as large and as many broods as possible. For instance, the common Partridge, though neither polyandrous nor polygamous, will lay as many as twenty eggs and, if the female be destroyed, the male will successfully rear the young and even adopt and rear the young hatched by another pair. The Tinamous lay at almost any time of the year, run with extraordinary rapidity, and in the matter of "taking cover" they have nothing to learn from Baden Powell's scouts.

The species we are now dealing with is found in Bolivia, Brazil and the Argentine, where it is sometimes called "*Perdiz grande*" and sometimes "*Martinéta.*" It runs with extraordinary speed through the tall grasses of the Pampas and is difficult to flush but, when forced to rise, flies powerfully and with strident whirring of the wings. The eggs are purple and, as with the rest of the Tinamous, so highly polished that they cannot be mistaken for those of any other genus. It is said[1] to utter some flute-like notes, almost worthy to be called a song, several individuals combining in a kind of chorus.

Some further data may be added here which I have extracted from a private letter from Mr. H. F. Teschemaker, to whom I am much indebted for the kind gift of the Tinamous. "They inhabit a large portion of the Argentine, though they are found chiefly on the flat country, in the Provinces of Santa Fé, Cordoba, Buenos Ayres, Pampa Central and San Luis. There is another very similar species called the "*copeton*" which carries a large crest and is more difficult to flush, running a long way before rising. This latter appears to be more numerous in the South of the Province of Buenos Ayres and in the hills in the North West, as I never saw one in the Province of Santa Fé during all the years I have been in Argentine. The birds I have sent you, which we call "*Martinétas*," have rather a slow flight, but get up quickly and give fair sport. Their eggs are very curious and have the appearance of finely glazed china. They are oblong, shaped alike at both ends and in size about equal to a pullet's. They have been fed on corn and turnips."

My four birds were in sound condition, but one was rather bare on the back and two others had also lost some plumage in the great heat encountered passing through the tropics. It is curious that these lost plumes had been replaced by a thick growth of almost white feathers which of course greatly detracted from their appearance. However, they gradually cast these and are now (26th May) once more handsomely barred. Shortly after their arrival they uttered some weird call notes but ever since they have remained absolutely mute.

For two months the Tinamous were kept in a large loft, where they soon became wonderfully tame. They would feed from the hand and could easily be picked up and tucked under one's arm to which position they resigned themselves with as much equanimity as the Flamingoes in that wonderful croquetmatch so quaintly described in "Alice in Wonderland" They are now in a garden aviary where there are shrubs, small trees and long grass, and seem to be enjoying life. I have never yet seen them attempt to perch although there are plenty of low boughs which they could easily reach. If only the Rufous Tinamou could be easily bred in captivity it would make an interesting addition to any poultry yard and probably also show good sport to the gun. Eggs have been several times hatched in this country but I have no information as to whether young birds have been reared and apparently the adults turned down in Essex and Hertfordshire have not multiplied. Nevertheless I hope to turn mine out towards the end of the summer on some preserved ground in Devonshire.

The Birds of Gambia.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

(*Continued from page* 42).

STURNIDÆ.

Lamprotornis caudatus. LONG-TAILED GLOSSY STARLING.

Range. West and North-East Africa. (*B.M. Cat.*)

Very common in the Gambia. Generally seen in flocks of about twenty or thirty. Common everywhere especially in the rice fields. At the end of the rains, November and December, in company with the other Glossy Starlings and Weavers, work havoc among the ripening millet.

In most individuals the prevailing colour of the metallic gloss is green, but in others it is distinctly blue. In two young ones I had alive in 1906 the crown was deep blue separated by a distinct margin at the occiput from the green of the nape and back, this is hardly marked in the adult.

Native names: Weer-weer (Mandingo). Gulagul (Joloff).

Lamprotornis chrysonotis. GOLDEN-EARED GLOSSY STARLING.

Range. Senegambia (*B.M. Cat.*)

Described from Gambia, but it must be rare here. I have never seen it. A bird about the size of a Green Glossy Starling; the metallic gloss is greenish except on the throat where purple prevails, and there is a broad copper band across the chest, while the ear spots are bright bronze.

Lamprocolius chalybeus, and *L. chloropterus.* GREEN GLOSSY STARLING.

Range. All over West Africa. East Africa south to Zambesi. (*B.M. Cat.*)

L. purpureus. PURPLE-HEADED GLOSSY STARLING.

Range. West and Equatorial Africa. (*B.M. Cat.*)

These three Short-tailed Glossy Starlings are all found in the Gambia.

The latter is much the most common, and to be seen everywhere, often in enormous flocks. When the corn is ripening they eat large quantities of the nearly ripe corn, but at other times feed partly on insects and fruits of various bush trees. After a bush fire they find a bounteous banquet of half-baked grasshoppers, locusts, etc., and when a swarm of the latter appears they then too have an opportunity of gorging themselves on those insects. At times one sees them flycatching from the tops of trees, flying up and returning with their prey to their perch, as Sparrows do after daddy-longlegs in the summer at home. Towards evening they collect into flocks and fly to their respective roosting places, which are frequently in low trees near or over the water, where they collect for the night, making a great commotion and disturbance as the sun goes down, as they chatter and quarrel for their places.

Of the three species, the first two show a prevailing gloss of green, in the third the chief colour is blue or purple. The two green birds hardly differ except in size, the first being distinctly larger than the second, while the Purple Starling is in size midway between the two green species.

Native names are Weer-Weer (Mandingo), and Yerayer (Joloff).

The little boys who are out all day scaring birds in the fields catch them in large numbers during the harvest time, and I have kept a good many at different times, but I do not find them very easy birds to accustom to cage life and food, though this cannot be the rule, as I have often seen both at home and out here at the seaports cages containing thirty or more all healthy and feeding well on a most unpromising looking food.

As cage birds too they are not very satisfactory owing to their noisy chatter and huge appetites.

Spreo pulcher.

Range. North-east Africa to the Niger and Senegambia. (*B.M. Cat.*)

A beautiful chestnut-breasted Glossy Starling, which I have so far never been fortunate enough to meet with since I have been in the Gambia.

Pholidauges leucogaster. AMETHYST STARLING.

Range. West and North-east Africa.

Very common in the more wooded parts of the Gambia from about May till the end of the rains, while a smaller number remain with us all the year round, especially in the districts nearest to the sea. Generally met with in pairs, but in May and June are often seen in small parties feeding with Orioles and other birds on the Sotoes and other wild fig-trees.

The male is a most beautiful bird, two-coloured, a lovely metallic puce-purple contrasting with the purest white. The hen is a plain brown and white bird. In 1906 I had two males alive, one of which I gave to the Zoo, where it still thrives. They are, however, very rarely caught; these two were the only ones I ever saw in captivity, and, although I have been trying to get others, I have never succeeded. In confinement I found them very easy to cater for.

Buphaga africana. OXPECKER.

Range. Nearly the whole of Africa. (*B.M. Cat.*)

Very common in the Gambia, two or three to be seen with every herd of cattle. They are brown birds, intermediate in appearance between the Starlings and the larger Weavers, with yellow red-tipped beaks. They live on the ticks and other insects which infest cattle. Mandingo name, Charra.

(To be continued.)

Bird Notes from the Zoo.

By WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S.

In these notes precedence must be given to the much anticipated aviaries for the Birds of Paradise, and to mention in passing that with other changes in the management, Mr. D. Seth-Smith has been appointed Curator of Birds and Inspector of Works. This is a change which all aviculturists will welcome, and the fine series of foreign birds should now receive that care and practical supervision which they well deserve. One can only hope that better supervision will be kept over the name tablets of birds on the various cages and aviaries, also that they will be correctly named, and that we may be spared such absurd popular titles as, for instance, " Red-fronted Finch" to *Sporopipes frontalis*; it is not even descriptive and the bird already possessed a descriptive title, viz., Bearded Scaly-fronted Finch.

While many aviculturists will be disappointed that the Bird of Paradise flights are not larger—but it must be noted that existing conditions and the necessity of making a display, from the spectacular standpoint were the main factors in deciding the dimensions, etc. of the respective flights—nevertheless much has been gained, and we shall doubtless hear of many species of of Grassfinches, etc., if not the Birds of Paradise, breeding therein during the present season. Some of them are already building and others prospecting.

It will suffice to say that however much aviculturists may privately criticise the new aviaries and regret their limitations, it will be seen from the photographic reproductions illustrating these notes, that they have a handsome appearance, are well arranged, have been carefully thought out, and the comfort of the birds studied to the utmost that the existing conditions would allow. The illustrations make further description superfluous.

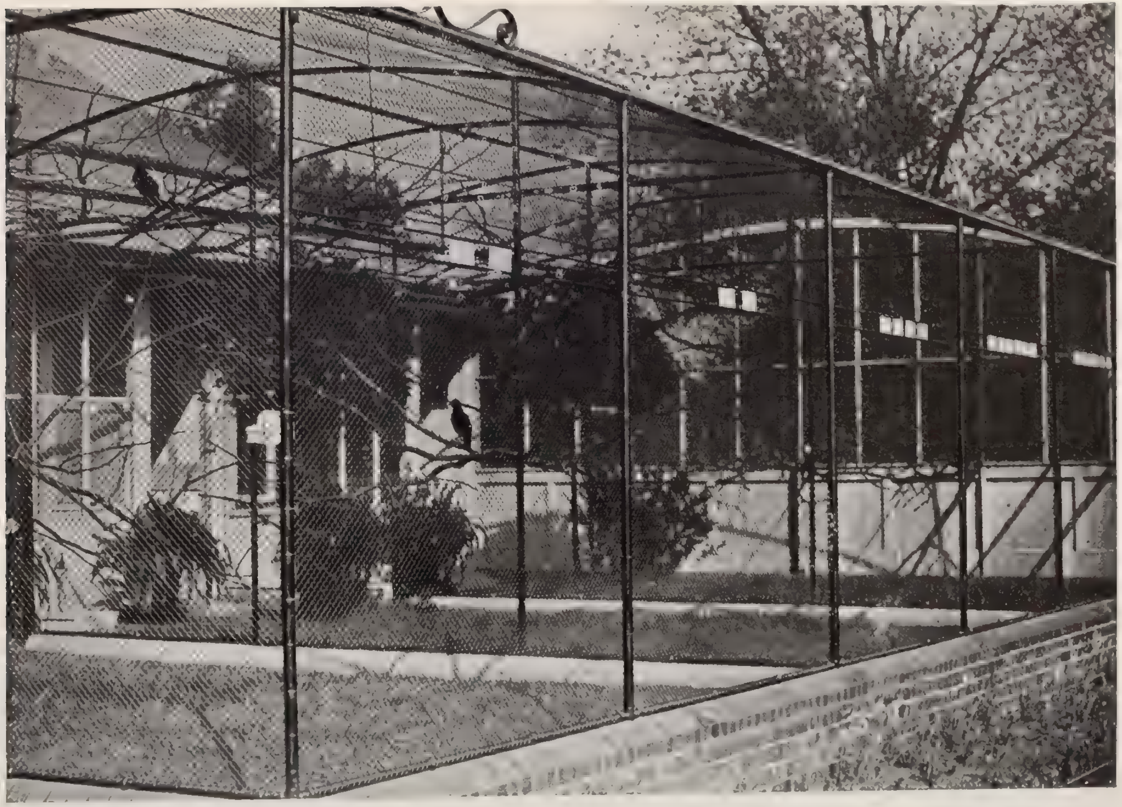


Photo by E. O. Page.

Bird of Paradise Flights at the London Zoo.

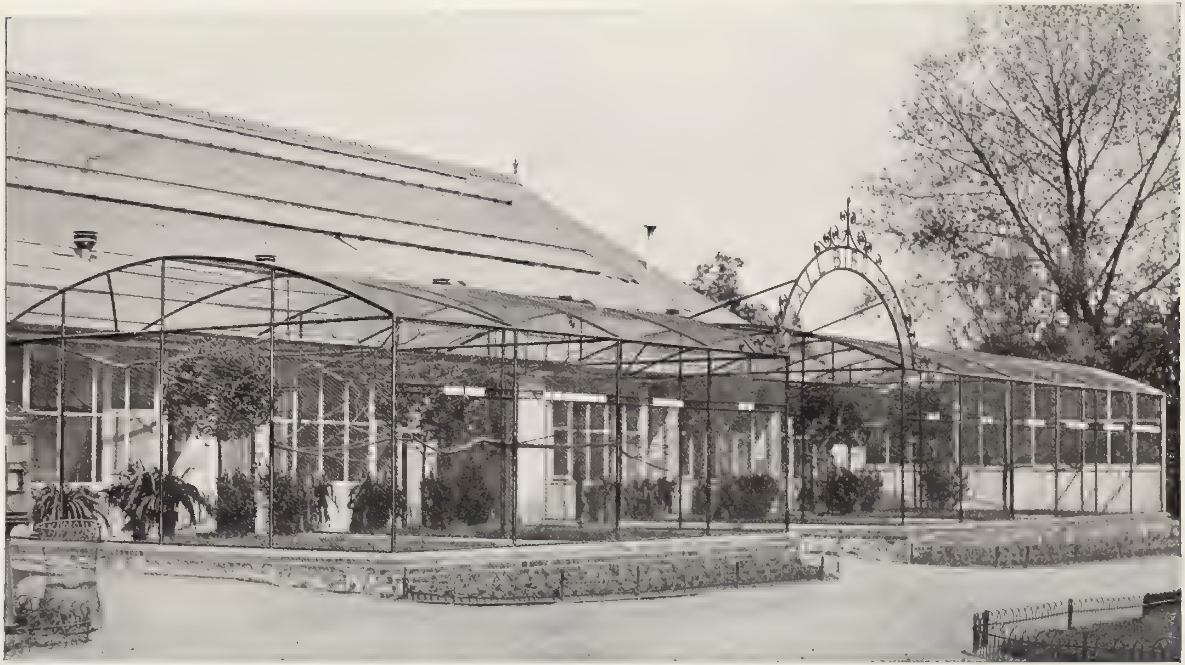
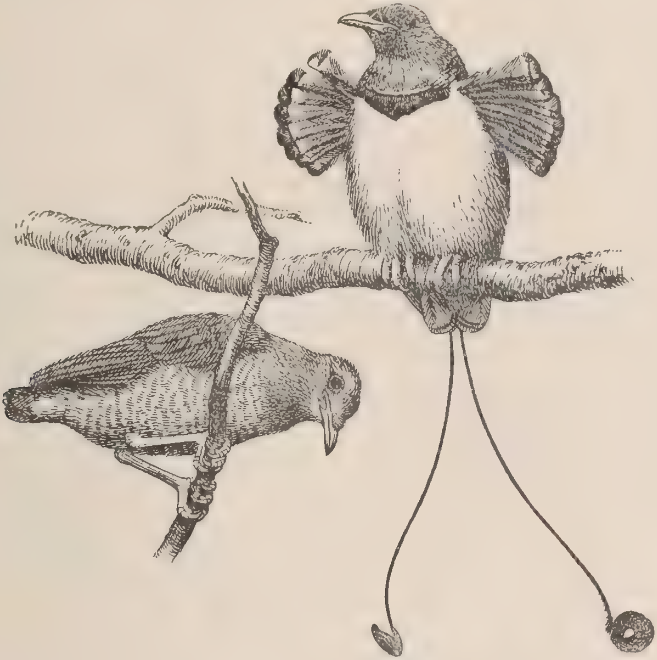


Photo by E. O. Page.

The New Flights for the Birds of Paradise at the London Zoo.

It is too soon to speak yet as to the extent which the Birds of Paradise will display themselves to the public; as not only are many of the species moulting and only in partial nuptial plumage, but they have not settled down to their altered surroundings; nevertheless Count Raggi's Bird of Paradise (*P. raggiana*) is giving promise of what a fine show there will be in a few weeks time; these aviaries are sure to be a centre of interest, especially as a number of gorgeously plumaged small tropical birds are enjoying semi-liberty with the Birds of Paradise.



Drawn from life by H. Goodchild.

King Bird of Paradise ♂ and ♀.
Cicinnurus regius.

The new aviaries consist of five flights, and for purposes of description I am numbering them 1 to 5, *i.e.* from left to right, as they appear on plate.

I. This flight contains three King Birds of Paradise (*Cicinnurus regius*) neither of which are as yet in perfect feather, though the gorgeous crimson, metallic greens, etc. flashing in the sunlight, already indicate what a glorious spectacle they will make when in perfect plumage. In this flight are also to be seen the All Green Tanager (*Chlorophonia viridis*), Yellow-winged Sugar Bird (*C. cyanea*), Spotted Emerald Tanager (*Calliste guttata*), Fire-red Finch * (*Spermophila minuta*), Guttural Finch * (*S. gutturalis*), Blue Wren (*Malurus cyaneus*), and Varied Hemipode (*Turnix varia*) ; the latter had quite an artistic nest at the foot of a Box tree, containing three eggs, when these notes were taken (May 29th). The feature of this flight (at present) is the dainty little Australian Blue Wren. Its fearless demeanour, vivacity, and the engaging flirt of its tail as it flitted in and out of the foliage was quite entrancing. This species has been bred in captivity: Mr. R. Phillipps several years ago achieved that distinction.

II. Containing Blue (*Tanagra episcopus*), Scarlet (*R. brasilius*), and Black Tanagers (*Tachyphonus melaleucus*) and Count Raggi's Bird of Paradise (*Paradisea raggiana*) ; this species so far makes the best display, one of the males being in perfect plumage and making a grand picture as he sat on the branches sunning himself. As the birds gain more confidence and get accustomed to their surroundings, they will use some of the lower perches and then be seen to better advantage.

III. Contains eight Lawes' Birds of Paradise (*P. lawesi*), none of which were in perfect plumage, though one of the males was very rapidly approaching that stage. From their demeanour during the hour in which I had them under observation, I fear that as soon as the males are in full nuptial plumage their numbers will have to be reduced, as already they were living in anything but amity.

IV. Here were gathered together quite an interesting series, viz.: Hunstein's Bird of Paradise (*D. hunsteini*) ; Blue-wing (*C. cyanoptera*) and Superb Tanagers (*C. fastuosa*) ; Rufous-tailed Grassfinch (*Bathilda ruficauda*) ; Sydney Waxbill (*Ægintha temporalis*) ; Parrot Finch (*Erythrura psittacea*) ; Chestnut-breasted Finch (*Munia castaneithorax*) and Nutmeg Finch (*M. punctuata*). Many of these were prospecting or carrying bents, etc. about, evidently enjoying their newly found liberty, and many of them will undoubtedly breed. These and the birds next door (flight

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* Vide coloured plate, opposite page 61, Vol. VI. *Bird Notes.*

No. V.) form quite an interesting crowd, containing among their number many species that are great favourites with aviculturists, and their doings will be watched with much interest, however limited the flights may be for the Birds of Paradise, the accommodation for these small species is all that could be desired, the one thing lacking being perhaps a little more cover. Here, under almost natural conditions, will be given the opportunity, for the first time to many, of seeing these interesting species feed their young, etc., also the various stages, from nesting to adult plumage.

V. After the foregoing general remarks it will only be necessary for me to give a list of the species contained in this flight, viz.: Pin-tailed Nonpareils (*Erythrura prasina*), Parrot Finches, Gouldian Finches (*P. gouldii*), Quail Finches (*Ortygospiza polyzona*), Oven Bird (*Dendroica discolor*), Olive Finches (*Phonipara olivacea*), Long-tailed Grassfinches (*P. acuticauda*), Zebra Finches (*Tæniopygia castanotis*), Grey-Singing Finches (*Serinus leucopygius*), Ringed Finches (*Stictoptera annulosa*), Fire-tailed Finch (*Estrilda bella*), Varied Hemipode (*Turnix varia*), Violet-eared Waxbills (*Granatina granatina*) and Blue-breasted Waxbills (*Estrilda angolensis*).

In my further peregrinations I noted in the Western Aviary (always an interesting place to the aviculturist), Sun Bittern (I fear the stay of this bird will be a very brief one); Motmot, this interesting species favoured me several times with the pendulum like movement of the tail, from which characteristic it is also known as the Pendulum Bird. I also noted the following all looking very fit; American Robin (nesting), Nicobar Pigeon, Black and White Fantails, Coach-whip Bird (the realistic whip-like note of this species was uttered several times while I was in the aviary, Yellow and Red-headed Hangnests, White-collared Ouzels, Saturnine and Cuban Mocking Birds, Pied Grallinas, and the fine series of Weavers and Whydahs, mostly in nuptial plumage, the Weavers busily engaged in actively weaving their characteristic nests, several of which were of the complete type, as used for breeding in their native wilds. The Western Aviary always contains many interesting species and is the aviary for aviculturists to give a good portion of their time to.

These notes have become more extensive than I anticipated, and I must merely mention in passing one or two of the newer arrivals, leaving description, etc. till some future issue—one exception must however be made in the case of

THE GREEN HANGNEST (*Octinops viridis*). This interesting and unique specimen (new to the collection) is immature, its size is about that of a moderate sized pigeon, bill over one inch long, pale yellow in colour with a large patch of orange on the upper mandible; the body plumage is mostly olive-green; the upper and under tail-coverts and ventral region are dark bronzy-chestnut; tail feathers olive-green, with the exception of the outer ones, yellow and the central ones blackish; area of blackish-brown skin round the eyes; iris bright blue; legs and feet blackish horn colour. Habitat: Venezuela. The bird is quite tame, allows itself to be handled by the keeper, and has the Starling characteristic of probing with his bill closed and then opening it out. It is located in the small Birds' House.

Notes on Birds of Cape Colony.

By H. E. BLISS.

(*Continued from page* 58).

In my aviary in Port Elizabeth the other birds that nested, or attempted to nest, besides the St. Helena Seedeaters were some Dufresne's and St. Helena Waxbills and Alario Finches.

The Dufresne's Waxbills commenced building in June, but in was not until December that, feeling in the nest one day, I found it contained four or five eggs. The domed nest was built in a bunch of dry heather nailed rather low down in one corner of the aviary and was composed chiefly of lichen (in preference to moss which was also supplied) lined with soft grass and a few feathers. The eggs were hatched on the 19th December, but several days later I noticed the birds had deserted the nest and I found the young birds had all disappeared; whether mice were the culprits, or some of the larger birds in the aviary, I never discovered. These Waxbills moulted in January.

The Alarios made several attempts to build during September but never seemed to succeed in building a nest, and I found afterwards that a Red-headed Finch and a Red-billed Weaver were the cause of the trouble, for as soon as a nest was commenced they never rested until they had pulled it to pieces. I removed them to a small aviary containing Budgerigars where there were no nests to demolish, and the Budgerigars were well able to take care of themselves. In August of the following year I paired a cock Alario with a hen Canary and they reared three young—one cock and two hens. I kept the cock bird for several years; he became very tame and was a great favourite and also a splendid little songster, his song being a mixture between that of an Alario and a Canary.

I have made several attempts at keeping different species of Nectarinidæ or Sunbirds in cages, but it was not until last year that I met with any success. When out catching Great-tailed Whydahs, one day I came across numbers of the Orange-breasted Sunbirds feeding on small flies and insects in a patch of bracken fern. Not being very successful that day at catching Whydahs, I thought I would try and secure one of these exquisitely coloured little Sunbirds, for it was some years since I had tried to keep one. It was not long before I had caught a young and an adult female, and having a two-mile walk across the veldt to the road and then eight miles on my bicycle, I started for home at once so as not to keep the birds longer without food and water than was absolutely necessary. From my observations of these little Sunbirds in their wild state, and from my limited experience of them in captivity, I find that they are constantly feeding all day, from sunrise to sunset, and that their being without nourishment for an hour or two whilst being conveyed home was the chief cause of my not being successful in keeping them in captivity.

As soon as I had got my two birds home and given them a more roomy cage, I supplied them with some ripe orange, water, milk sweetened with sugar, and a bunch of a species of heath which was very plentiful on the veldt and which they seemed to prefer to any other flowers. The young bird started to feed at once on the juice of the orange and the milk, but the adult hen was very wild and refused to touch anything, and seeing that in all probability she would not be alive the next morning I gave her her liberty. The young bird soon became extremely tame and would take flies from my hand without any hesitation or signs of fear. It was the 22nd November when I caught it. I kept it in perfect health in an ordinary Canary show cage until the middle of January when it died on the voyage to England. It was very fond of a bath and there were few days on which it did not take one.

I found these birds comparatively plentiful in certain parts of the veldt where several species of heath grew in abundance. They take little notice of you, and on several occasions I have approached them within a couple of yards and listened to them warbling their sweet, but rather faint, little song.

My brother writes to say he lately saw a yellow Wagtail near Port Elizabeth, and he understands this is the first time it has been reported as having occurred in the colony. It was afterwards procured for the Museum. It might be interesting to others, besides myself, to know if this bird occurs in any other part of South Africa, and if it is correct, that it has not previously been found in Cape Colony.

A further Account of the Yellow-winged Sugar Bird.

By Tinniswood Miller, F.Z.S.

Glancing through some of our back numbers the other day I came across, in the September issue, 1907, an account of our Yellow-winged Sugar Bird (*Sai*), and I wondered if our members would care to hear more about him, as he is still with us, and as close and brilliant as when Mr. Goodchild painted his portrait.

Just before the account appeared, viz., in August, 1907, in an evil moment, we thought we would try him with some tiny young mealworms. He took readily enough to them, and, in fact, ate more than was good for him; the result being that he had a fit.

By luck my wife was in the room at the time having tea, she immediately picked him up and placed his feet in as *hot* water as she could bear her hand in, at the same time wetting his head with some *cold* water from a flower vase. He recovered from the fit, but it left him very weak and ill; he seemed to lose all sense of balance, he could not perch, and was constantly rolling about all over the floor of his cage. This sort of thing went on until the middle of November, during which time he lived almost entirely on black grapes, held in front of him to suck, as he was only with great difficulty able to feed himself; but he gradually got stronger, and in January, 1908, I changed his food, giving him Nestle's milk with a little sponge cake and Mellin's food in it. It is quite liquid, about the consistency of thin cream, and this, with fruit (bananas and grapes) is what I continue to feed him on. He takes a good tablespoonful of the milk per day.

He was a pitiable little object; his body feathers all stuck together, and his flight feathers all broken through falling about his cage. I often wished he would die and so end his miserable existence; he however thought otherwise, and noticing that he was trying to preen himself and get the old stumps out, I assisted him by pulling all the flight and tail feathers out, of course very gradually, only one or two a week. I also frequently washed him, sponging him all over in warm water, and afterwards rolling him up in a flannel in front of the fire to dry. From constant handling he lost all fear of me and I was able to do anything with him. The result of this drastic treatment was that, in April, he was quite himself again, singing, calling, and taking his daily tub. In August we showed him at the L.C.B.A. members' show, where he took the prize as the best foreign bird in the show. He went out of colour in October, and came into it again at the end of February this year.

The moral of this little tale is, never give a bird up while there is a spark of life in it.

The Birds of India.

By Douglas Dewar, I.C.S.

[*A Lecture delivered before the Indian Section of the Royal Society of Arts, and reproduced by kind permission of the Author and R.S.A.*]

From the Journal of the Royal Society of Arts.

(*Continued from page* 67, *Vol. VIII.*)

Economic Ornithology.

The economic aspect of the study of the birds of India is the one likely to commend itself most to the members of this Society. It is certainly the most important from a practical point of view. Unfortunately it is the aspect with which I am the least familiar, since I study birds purely as a hobby.

I take it that all men are agreed that birds as a whole are of incalculable value to man. Were they to disappear from off the face of the earth human existence would be impossible. As things are, insects constitute the dominant group of organisms. "In number of species," writes Mr. Maxwell-Lefroy, Imperial Entomologist to the Government of India, "in actual numbers or bulk, in the sum total of their activities, they outweigh all other forms of animal life at present on the earth." They take toll of all other creatures. The birds are their chief foes. It is due almost entirely to the efforts of the fowls of the air that insects are held in check. To quote Mr. Maxwell-Lefroy again: "Birds are the fluctuating check on insect life, the safety valve as it were; they congregate where they find insects, regardless of their species or habits, and constantly consume the superfluous and superabundant insect life."

But all birds are not equally useful to man. Some are commonly supposed to be positively harmful. Hence the economist does not look upon all with equal favour. He divides the fowls of the air into two classes—the friends and the foes of man. His policy is obviously to encourage the former and to repress the latter.

Unfortunately, it is by no means always easy to determine into which category a particular species falls. A great many birds, as, for example, flycatchers, feed exclusively on insects, and since these latter may as a whole be regarded as man's most deadly enemies, it follows that all purely insectivorous birds are his very good friends. On this point there can be no difference of opinion. Nor can any one doubt that those fowls of the air which subsist mainly on insects are of great utility to man.

Mr. Maxwell-Lefroy writes in his "Indian Insect Pests":—"A large number of birds are wholly insectivorous, a large number are partly so, and every one of these deserves protection and encouragement." In other words, the great majority of birds are useful to man.

Friends or Foes?

But there exists a multitude of feathered creatures that are not purely insectivorous. There are the raptores, which devour other birds, small mammals and reptiles; the vultures which eat carrion; and the birds which feed largely on fruit, grain, or fish. How are these to be regarded? This is a question which can be satisfactorily answered only by considering each species separately, and ascertaining the nature of its food at different stages of its existence, and under various conditions, as, for example, in seasons of drought or excessive rainfall, or at times when the country is invaded by some insect pest, such as the locust. Even when we have succeeded in ascertaining this, we are by no means always able to say whether the bird in question is a friend or foe. Let us, for example, suppose that the species under observation lives chiefly upon grain crops, but that it feeds its young on harmful caterpillars. The caterpillar is a voracious creature, which consumes several times its own weight of food in the course of a day. Thus, the devouring of a caterpillar is a work of merit, which will outweigh the injury done by eating a considerable number of food grains, but who is to say how many food grains go to a caterpillar?

THE SPARROW.

Take the common Sparrow—a bird which has, of late, come in for much abuse in the columns of *The Times.* It is of great importance to determine the policy to be adopted towards him, for he has spread himself over the greater part of the world. In India he is almost as abundant as in England. If the question: Friend or foe? were determined by votes, I fear that the pushing little fellow would be condemned by a large majority, but I am not at all sure that his condemnation would be just.

We must bear in mind that the Sparrow, as his scientific name, *Passer domesticus*, suggests, is a bird of towns rather than of the open country. Now a town Sparrow cannot do much damage to the crops, unless, of course (as many London Sparrows are said to do), he takes a holiday in the country at a time when the corn is ripening!

SPARROW NESTLINGS.

We must not forget that young Sparrows in the nest are fed chiefly on insect food. Last year I placed in a cage in the verandah some baby Sparrows taken out of a nest in the pantry of my bungalow. The parents soon found them out, and fed them through the bars of the cage. I was able to satisfy myself that the young were fed largely on green caterpillars, which I believe were captured in the kitchen-garden. In each beakful of food carried to the young birds there were not less than three of these caterpillars. By watching the number of times food was taken to the cage, I calculated that the hen, for she does the lion's share of the feeding, brought in something like 540 insects (chiefly caterpillars) per diem to her brood. She fed them on this diet for nearly three weeks, so that the young ones before leaving the nest had swallowed between them several thousands of caterpillars.

Now, we know that the rearing of a family seems to be the normal condition of a Sparrow, so that this species performs a very great service to man in the form of insect destruction. Further, the adult birds sometimes eat insects, and this they are likely to do whenever, from some cause or other, insects become unusually abundant, that is to say, precisely at the time when it is most important to man that his little six-legged foes should be devoured. As a set-off to this we must not forget the large amount of food grains that Sparrows devour. Moreover, were they less numerous, their place might perhaps be taken by birds of more undoubted utility to man. Probably the only method of arriving at the truth as regards the Sparrow is to exterminate him completely from a given locality, and watch the results. This, I believe, was done about forty years ago in Maine and Auxerre, with the result that almost every green leaf was destroyed by caterpillars in the following year.

It is thus obvious that the determination of the economic value of some birds is not by any means a simple matter. One thing is certain, and that is that no bird should be condemned as an enemy of man until a prolonged and careful inquiry into its habits has been made.

Running through the long list of Indian birds, we meet with some twenty species which the economic ornithologist might perhaps class as "doubtful"; birds which certainly do devour food crops, and which must consequently be classed as foes, unless they render some service to man by way of compensation for the damage they do. These are the Sparrows, the various species of Crow, the Rose-coloured Starling, some of the larger Finches, the Paroquets, the Doves and the Geese.

THE CROWS.

With the Sparrow we have already dealt. The Crows look upon the ripening crops as a feast prepared for their benefit. But grain forms quite an insignificant portion to their *menu*. They prefer the dustbin to the field, the town to the country. The *corvi* are a source of annoyance to man rather than an economic pest. They are useful if impertinent, scavengers, and undoubtedly destroy a large quantity of harmful insects. When a flight of locusts invades the land they, together with the Kites, render yeoman service to the husbandman. Even as a carcase attracts every vulture in the vicinity, so does a swarm of locusts bring together all the Crows of the locality. They leave their ordinary occupations to dance attendance upon the devastating host, seizing the insects with their claws and conveying them to the beak in mid air. Each crow devours locusts until threatened by death from a surfeit of food.

In a sense Crows and other omnivorous birds are more useful than the purely insectivorous ones. Like the careful housewife, they live upon whatever happens to be in season. If it be locusts, they have locusts for breakfast, locusts for lunch, locusts for dinner. They, therefore, form a highly efficient corps of reservists, ready at a moment's notice to wage war against insect invaders.

(*To be Continued*).

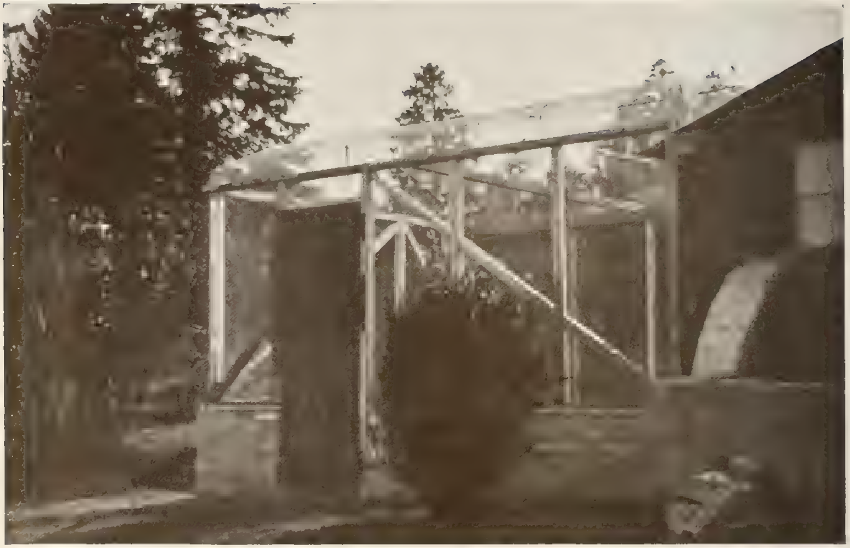

Photo by Mrs. E. Warren Vernon.

The British Bird Aviary at Toddington Manor.

Photo by Mrs. Lewis.

Triangular Spotted Pigeons (*Columba guinea*). [See page 72].

British bird Aviary at Toddington Manor.

By Mrs. E. Warren Vernon.

The photographic reproduction clearly shows the design of aviary,—which is home made. The measurements are as follows:—Brick base 3 ft.; wire from brick base to eaves 5 ft.; height of flight from ground to arch 9½ ft.; length of flight 11 ft. Shed, 5 ft. long by 7 ft. wide. Shed floor, concrete; roof, corrugated iron; it is much higher than flight so as to encourage the birds to roost inside. Flight is covered with ¾-inch mesh wire netting. Scrim curtains running on iron rods can be drawn at night over the top and round the sides, thus keeping away my great enemies—the Little Owls. I have twice lost half an aviary of birds in one night through these birds.

In the flight of the aviary are box trees, grass plots and fir poles with branches cut close, as perches, surrounded by a gravel path. It faces S.W., being quite shut in from N. and E. by high buildings round the stable yard. One side is against the garden wall; the shed end leans against an old brick building.

Under the shed, all perches and food vessels are hung, and to prevent mice fouling the food, I have wood platforms with circular holes cut in them to receive the sinking glass vessels containing seed, etc., suspended by wire from the roof. The mice cannot get down the wire, and the birds readily find the food. All perches are swung in the same manner, as I find birds delight in a swinging perch.

At present the aviary contains the following birds:—One pair of Bullfinches (hand-reared last year), the hen has a white head; pairs each of Greater Whitethroats, Black Redstarts, Stonechats, Tree Pipit and Yellow Wagtails. Shortly I intend adding Nuthatches, Nightingales, and probably many others.

The Bullfinches have mated, and at the present time (May 6th) the hen is busily incubating four eggs. I had to make the nest for her, as she laid her eggs in a canary nest box, wood and zinc lining; I put in the bottom of a Chaffinches' nest, of which she evidently approved as she immediately settled down to incubate the eggs.

The Bullfinch.

(*Pyrrhula europœa*).

By WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S.

This is one of the most handsome of the British finches, and a general favourite, except with the fruit grower, who, in spite of its great beauty, destroys it on sight, because of its depredations among the buds of fruit trees in the early spring.

It is still very numerous in many counties, and all lovers of our native avifauna will wish that it may long remain so; however, I will return to this point later under the heading of "Wild Life."

IN CAPTIVITY

It is kept under three conditions:—I. As an inmate of the aviary. II. As a cage pet or room bird. III. As an exhibition specimen. I have known it from actual experience under the first two of these conditions, and under the last only as a frequent visitor to the various bird shows.

I. It is as an inmate of the aviary that I know it best; losses are very numerous among newly-caught birds, principally, in my opinion, owing to an insufficiency of tender green food and supplying dry seed. The period when these birds are mostly caught is spring or autumn, when, either owing to heavy dews or rains, their natural food is in a more or less saturated condition, and the failing to supply soaked seed and a liberal supply of fresh green food causes the death of very many of these handsome birds. In the aviary, once settled down, their average life is about five years, though there are many instances in which this age has been largely exceeded.

Many years have elapsed since I have kept this species, though when I did so I bred them freely, and I have been rather surprised at so many comparatively experienced bird-keepers failing to breed it. For a number of years I gave up British birds, then temporarily took them up again, and in this brief interval they bred again with me, though I only retained them one season, foreign species ultimately crowding them out of my aviaries. I must repeat again that with this species, tender fresh green food is a *sine qua non*, both for keeping the adult birds fit and rearing the young. I should say that fully one-third of the dietary of the young birds consists of green food, and till I solved this problem the result was always failure. The last occasion on which I bred them (about ten years ago) was in a portable garden-aviary-cage, consisting of three compartments, in the centre one of which a pair of newly-caught Bullfinches nested and reared two young; the compartment in question being only 18 × 18 × 22 inches high. It had been previously used for a pair of Budgerigars and contained a husk in one corner. On the top of this the Bullfinches constructed quite an attractive nest, with fibre pulled from the inside of the husk and the stems of weeds and coarse grasses from among their green food; three eggs were laid and two young birds successfully reared, both of which ultimately came to an untimely end—one being murdered by a Saffron and the other by a Green Singing-finch. Carrying my memory much further back into the past, I may say that in the aviary they usually availed themselves of cover for their nest, such as under a narrow shelf or near the front of their shed, and, in the majority of instances, availing themselves of an artificial base on which to construct their nest. I can only recall two instances in which typical natural nests were built: one in a bush and the other in a faggot of pea sticks, and in both instances the young were drowned during heavy rains. So far as I could ascertain the young were entirely reared on the usual seeds and green food, the quantity of the latter consumed being simply enormous. I did not find two pairs to agree in the same compartment, however large; instead of nesting they merely chased one another about.

The young males donned their brilliant garment at the autumn moult, but it was not then of full intensity; this with several specimens I kept, increased in intensity for the two succeeding moults, when they appeared at their best, being of not quite so rich a hue when they died at from two to three years later.

I have not found this species spiteful with other birds, not even the smallest Waxbill, but they are very quarrelsome with their own kind, especially during the breeding season. They should not, however, be associated with either Cardinals or the more robust foreign Buntings, because these will sooner or later kill them off, as also will the English Chaffinch; this has been the case on several occasions in my aviary.

This species can be established in any garden providing cover and nesting sites, such as thick bushes or hedge or two. From a recent letter of Mr. Teschemaker's I quote the following interesting extract:—"I find they can be easily established in *any* garden with a good thick hedge or two, by turning out one of a pair, keeping the remaining one in a cage hanging in the garden for a week. The one first liberated hangs about the place, so as to be near its mate, until it gets to know the locality, and should be supplied with hemp seed daily. Then liberate the other and both will stay and breed. I tried it one year (in the early spring) and they nested successfully. Next year I had so many Bullfinches in the garden that I had to shoot some, and then they all cleared off."

Will some of our members with large gardens, especially near London, make a similar attempt? they would probably spread and make a welcome addition to such of our Commons and Parks as provided suitable cover for them.

II. As a room bird or cage pet my experience has been but limited, and it is so far back that I scarcely care to quote my experience to any extent; but as a boy it was one of my favourite birds; I expect the rich red plumage of the under surface was the principal attraction.

As a room bird, apart from its pleasing plumage, it possesses the attractive qualities of being intelligent, confiding, readily learning numerous tricks, such as feigning death, firing toy guns, etc., also it may be taught to pipe various tunes; such are called Piping Bullfinches, and are costly, but interesting pets, and quite an industry is made of training them in Germany—very few English birds are trained, so few that they need not be considered here.

III. As an exhibition bird they are very popular, as the well-filled classes at our principal shows abundantly testify. It is quite instructive to walk round a class of Bullfinches and study them at close quarters. What an amount of variation there is in size, form and depth of hue; these points can only be studied under such conditions, when picked birds, coming from various localities (possibly covering the whole British Isles) can be compared side by side. Field study does not permit of this, though there we may become acquainted with their interesting life history. I do not think I ought to generalise more upon this point, not being an Exhibitor I must leave it for others to touch upon such details. However, only steady, shapely and richly-coloured specimens should be chosen ; a bird that is unsteady is likely to receive but scanty notice from the judge.

(To be continued).

British Birds, Field Notes, etc.

Abnormal Pugnacity: Have other members of the F.B.C. noticed an extraordinary amount of fighting between the male birds of almost all species this season ?

A few days ago I watched two tiny cock Wrens fighting on the paths a few yards from where I was standing. So fierce was the battle that they actually allowed me to pick them both up.

I had one in each hand, and on putting them close together they tried to continue the battle.

On releasing the bold warriors they flew at once to a tree and commencing singing, I conclude shouting defiance at each other.

A few days before this, cock Chaffinches were also fighting. I drove the victor away ; he was sitting on the vanquished one's body pecking his head, and the poor combatant was so injured as to be unconscious. I put him in a basket and after the night he flew away. I hope he had the good sense to keep away. Possibly there is a shortage of hens, as I see no other reason for so much warfare.

The following birds arrived nearly together about April 26th :—Blackcaps, Redstarts, Greater and Lesser Whitethroats, Willow and Grass-hopper Warblers, Gold-crested Wrens, and Wagtails. E. Warren Vernon.

Blackbird feeding Thrush: On June 1st as I was cycling along one of our Derbyshire roads, I saw in an adjoining field a thrush and a blackbird. Both looked to be fully matured, the breast of the thrush being very golden in the sunlight, while the beak of blackbird was of the deepest amber. The thrush flew to the blackbird flapping its wings and the latter fed it as though it was either a young one or had paired with it. Unfortunately I could not stop just then to see what further happened, but I have never seen even cousins feeding each other before, though it may be common enough to regular observers.

J. H. HENSTOCK.

Book Notices and Reviews.

MY LIFE AMONG THE WILD BIRDS OF SPAIN, by Col. Willoughby Verner. Sm. 4to., pp. 468. With numerous illustrations. Pub.: Bale, Sons and Danielsson, London. Price 21/- net.

This interesting and comprehensive work might well have been called "Bird Nesting in Spain," for it is practically an account of many years' pursuit, accompanied with much risk and danger, of his favourite hobby. Bird nesting is always a fascinating theme both for author and reader, and Col. Verner has written a most readable and instructive book. Its scope is in some measure indicated by the following summary of some of its principal contents,

Exhaustive description of ropes and other necessary paraphernalia, and how to use them.

Graphic word pictures of Spanish Wilds; haunts of Bustards, Cranes, Eagles, Vultures, Kites, Ravens, etc.

Detailed accounts of collecting days, specially valuable because of the thoroughness of detail.

The photographic reproductions, drawings, plans, etc., complete a most valuable volume, which should be in the library of every field naturalist and bird-lover.

BIRDS AND THEIR NESTS AND EGGS. Found in and near great towns. By G. H. Vos, B.A. Third series, Illustrated. G. Routledge & Sons, London. Price 1/- net.

The three parts already issued cover the work of three seasons in London and its neighbourhood. Fifty-two species are enumerated as having been met with and descriptive notes are given. The photographic illustrations of the birds though good, lose much of their value owing to most of them having been taken from stuffed specimens.

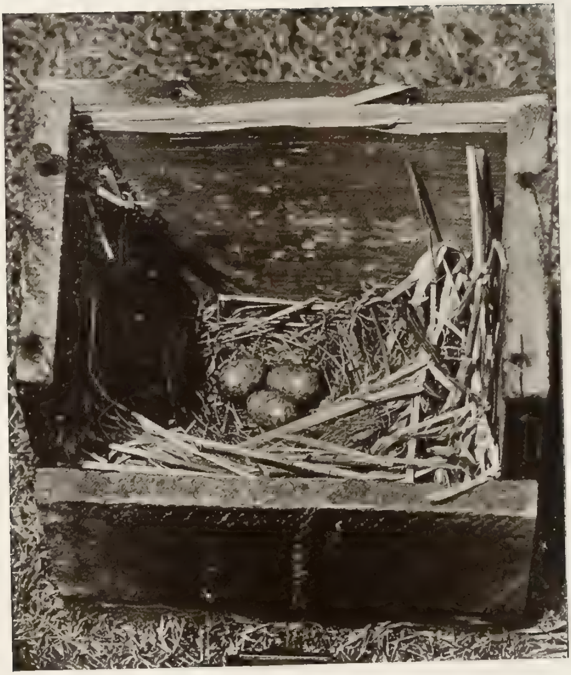

Photo by E. O. B. Page.

Nest and Eggs of Pope × Grey Cardinal.
Paroaria larvata × *P. cucullata.*

Editorial.

NESTING OF GREY-WINGED OUZELS: After coming very near to success, I have after all to write failure after the attempt of this species to reproduce their kind in my aviary. Though in my avicultural experience I have had many severe disappointments (these are the lot of all who attempt the breeding of uncommon species, or the insectivora), the present instance is about the keenest I have experienced for many years, as success seemed almost assured with at least one of the young birds, which appeared to be very strong and robust, and up to ten days' old was very vigorous and the parent birds most assiduous in feeding their offspring. On the eleventh day the parent birds were not so attentive, but they still fed it, but I do not think they fed at all on the twelfth day, on the evening of which it died. My business claims did not permit me to undertake hand feeding or the bird could easily have been reared, if it had been taken in hand on the eleventh day. The hen has began to incubate again and I shall hope for this occasion to be able to get a more varied supply of live insect food.

NESTING OF POPE × GREY CARDINALS: Disappointments never come singly, as the aviculturist of any lengthy experience knows only too well. The birds nested, laid four eggs, the ground colour of which was greyish-green, thickly marbled with reddish-brown, all were fertile as far as I have since ascertained, when just as the eggs were due to hatch the hen died; she was evidently about to lay a second clutch by the side of the first and, before her condition was discovered, she died egg-bound (truly an aviculturist must indeed be a philosopher, or some would be giving up the hobby in disgust). The first intimation I got of her condition being the finding of the body, which contained an abnormally large and full shelled egg, which the unfortunate bird had been unable to pass. This is the first case of egg binding in my aviaries for six or seven years. A photographic reproduction of the nest and eggs accompanies these notes, and, as the box was one of the few I use with fixed tops, this had to be removed to expose the nest and eggs.

NESTING NOTES: Some of our members are meeting with good success with Grassfinches, etc., and others are having, like myself, a run of ill-luck, particularly with the rarer and insectivorous species. Just on going to press, news reaches me from one of our members that he has just lost a brood of Blue Grosbeaks, which were five days old and, up to that time, had given every indication that they would be reared; in this case there was both variety and quantity of live insect food; but the Grosbeaks were true to the reputation of this group in captivity and threw out or ate the young. From Mr. Willford I hear that he has had a most interesting experience in his aviaries, viz., confirmation of the parasitical habits of the Silky Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*), four eggs have been laid in the nests of various other species, but, unfortunately, none of these have hatched out. I refrain from giving further details as Mr. Willford is preparing a paper "Nesting Notes for the Present Season"—which we shall hope to publish in our next issue.

THE UNCERTAINTIES OF AVICULTURE: There are certain species of foreign birds which can be relied upon to breed almost as freely as Canaries, such as Zebra and Ribbon Finches, White Java Sparrows, some Grassfinches, Budgerigars and the like, but with the rarer species and the insectivora, there are usually many failures before success is finally attained, and only in a few instances is it attained in the initial instance—so much is this the rule that when such occurs most experienced aviculturists are apt to attribute their success to a "happy fluke," even though every provision had been made to attain it. These remarks are general, and are the experience of those with almost unlimited accommodation, as well as those whose accommodation is very limited, and are written to prevent those of our members who are young in the fascinating pursuit of aviculture from being discouraged by initial failure.

Bird Notes from Far and Near.

A FEW REMARKS ABOUT THE WILD LIFE OF THE GOULDIAN FINCH (by G. A. Heumann).

The following notes, which are compiled from the *Die Gefiederte Welt,* were incited by an article by Herr Pfarrer Blume in an earlier issue of the *D.G.W.*

The very interesting article above referred to, I read with great interest and pleasure. . . . . I should like to impart to the readers of *D.G.W.* a few of my observations of the Gouldian Finch in its native wilds, made during my stay in Queensland.

These beautiful birds, usually called here Red or Black Pointers, range over the entire north of Queensland, and indeed from Townsville northerly. During the breeding season, September to December, they fly in pairs, afterwards in crowds of from five to six hundred head. But it is the details of pairing and incubation which will doubtless prove of greatest interest, and I at once come to the much contested point—are the Red-headed a variety or a separate species?

In my opinion they are merely a variety, inasmuch that I have seen the Red-headed males paired with Black-headed females, and *vice versa,*—the broods of such are therefore mixed. I have often looked on and watched such pairs feeding their young, so that a mistake was quite impossible.

The nest is usually placed in a low bush; it is spherical, with either a lateral or top entrance hole. Often, also, I have seen the birds weave up the butt end with upright long prairie grass, so that discovery of the nest is difficult indeed.

The clutch consists of from four to six white eggs, however I have seldom found more than three to four young in one nest.

To fathom the colour of the young has not been possible. The young are fed solely on seeds, so far as I could observe, and I have never seen one of these birds feed their young with a caterpillar or soft food.

These finches are caught, after they assemble together in flocks, with nets at watering places; for these during the dry season are rare, and that explains also the circumstance that during the rainy season, December to March, none of these birds are on the market.

Still another circumstance occurs to me out of the notes of Herr Pfarer Blume, viz., the difficulty of breeding these Amadinen. In Sydney, however, these dainty birds cannot live in the open, as the thermometer often falls in winter to + 8° Reaumur, but they are however much cultivated in captivity.

A friend who annually breeds these lovely creatures related to me that he had only fed them, even when feeding young, with millet. He states the broods are very mixed, often a pair of Blackheads have Red-headed young, mixed, or all black; seldom all red. The proportion is mostly one red to three blacks and very often the colouration is something intermediate between the black and red. this I have also noticed among wild broods.

I myself have never attempted to breed Gouldians, although I have from two to three hundred cage birds, mostly however foreign, therefore not Australian,

Thus I have this year successfully bred the Crescent Widow Bird (*Vidua* [*Penthetria*] *ardens*), rearing two young from as many broods; the Sun Astrilde, also Queenslands (in three broods, 12 young) which are much daintier than the Gouldians, Schnurrbartchen, etc.

Compiled from *Die Gefiederte Welt*, May 13th, 1909.

(Miss) F. B. PAGE.

* * *

We are indebted for the following cuttings from the *Auckland Herald* (by J. Drummond, F.L.S., F.Z.S.), on the Natural History of New Zealand, to our esteemed member Mr. F. Howe.

NATURE NOTES—NEW ZEALAND.

The gluttonous habits of the Long-tailed Cuckoo have become known far and wide throughout the bird-land in New Zealand. It is not at all surprising that the Tuis and other birds chase this marauder out of the bush whenever they have an opportunity of punishing it. There are many instances of its gluttony. Mr. G. Buddle, of Auckland, sent me two photographs some time ago of a Long-tailed Cuckoo that had half swallowed a fairly large lizard, and had been nearly choked by its effort. The lizard went down head first, but its fore-limb prevented the bird from taking in the whole body, and the reptile stuck in the Cuckoo's bill until it was rescued. Mr. Buddle took a photograph of the bird with the lizard in its bill, and another one after the lizard had been removed, and in the latter picture the look of rage and disappointment is very strongly marked. Mr. A. Burrows, of West Oxford, North Canterbury, in a letter I received some time ago, states that in the crop of a Long-tailed Cuckoo, brought to him a few years ago, he found two young Goldfinches, two large lizards, and several beetles. The Goldfinches were fledged, and had been swallowed whole.—From the *Auckland Herald.*

American Wood-Ducks, probably the most beautiful ducks in the world, thrive well in New Zealand. The Canterbury Acclimatisation Society has conducted experiments with these surpassingly fine birds for two years, and it has been found that their introduction is very successful. The imported birds are in the Society's gardens in Christchurch, where they show every sign of robust health. In plumage the American Wood-Duck resembles the Mandarin Duck of China, to which it is closely related. It has been given its title on account of its habit of frequenting woods. As a second title it is known as the "Summer Duck," because it is found in many parts of the United States in the summer season. The gorgeous beauty of the male's plumage and the female's graceful carriage, and their gentle disposition, make them a popular favourite in America.—From the *Auckland Herald.*

A correspondent in the North Island has made a suggestion in regard to the introduction of the Californian Quail. This bird has been liberated in many parts of New Zealand. At first it increased rapidly, but latterly its decrease is reported from a surprisingly large number of districts, especially those that adjoin towns or cities. The correspondent says that his experience shows that the Californian Quail should be liberated on fairly large tracts of country. It is better, he says, if the land is hilly, and is broken in places with bush or scrub. The Quail in his district, Ngatimaru, in the North Island, seem to get along very well on flat land if there is plenty of bush on it. If there is no bush they make a good start, but afterwards their numbers decrease. He can offer no explanation of this position.—From the *Auckland Herald.*

A correspondent who writes from Helensville, Auckland, regretting the destruction of native birds, says that the first great enemy they had to face was the Norway rat. New Zealand birds, he believes, had no inherited instincts to teach them how to protect themselves against those greedy invaders, and they fell easy victims. In recent years stoats and weasels have carried on the work. He states, in tones of regret, that the Kingfisher, the Fantail, the "Morepork" Owl, the Cuckoos, and the Hawks are the only native birds left near his place. Amongst introduced birds, Pheasants have also decreased in a remarkable manner. Thirty years ago, he could get five or six brace in one day, but he can only get very few now, and he does not believe that there are a dozen on his farm. Kingfishers and Shining Cuckoos visit his garden in the summer, and do useful work fossicking for insects amongst the vegetables, and Fantails still find plenty of occupation among the moths and flies.—From the *Auckland Herald.*

The Month's Arrivals.

I recently noted at Mr. Luer's several specimens of the Greater and Lesser Rock Sparrow (*Petronia dentata*), about half a dozen of the former and a dozen of the latter. A few of the latter species turn up every year among the so-called "Senegal birds" but I have never seen so many together before. They come from Abyssinia and Northern Africa generally and, despite their English and classical names, are not generally found on rocky ground, as Haagner points out. An interesting point in connection with this species is whether it is really distinct from *P. albigularis*, which has a white throat, *P. dentata* having a yellow spot in centre of throat. Dr. Butler considers they are distinct species because he had an adult female of each form which did not change colour during the whole time he had them. On the other hand Captain Shelley regards the former as the immature form of *P. dentata*. Undoubtedly some of the white-throated brown-headed individuals acquire yellow throats and grey heads when adult for our member, Dr. Hopkinson has seen them do so in his own aviary (see Vol. VIII., p. 42). Personally I think it possible that the two types are variant forms of the same species for several reasons, which would occupy too much space if enumerated here. The two types pair and have the same call-notes and song, and I have had a male *P. dentata* for four years which has quite lost the yellow spot. Of this last consignment one individual had just one yellow feather in the throat, the rest of which was white. I think I have probably had more representatives of this species than any aviculturist as I have always bought all those I came across. Collecting Rock-Sparrows is, however, not an expensive hobby, the price ranging between one and two shillings. They are dangerous in an aviary and have nothing whatever to recommend them except the interest attaching to them from an ornithological point of view. W.E.T.

Mr. F. C. Thorpe has sent me a sketch and particulars, by request, of a pair of Central American Finches which he has just imported. He describes them as being of the size of a common Sparrow and resembling the latter on crown, back and tail markings, though more grey; eyebrows and upper breast yellow; upper throat white; between throat and breast a black bib. I have very little doubt but that this is the Black-throated Bunting (*Spiza americana*), an inhabitant of the United States, but wintering in Mexico and Central America. It nests on the ground, and its song is said to resemble the Yellow Hammer's. Although it has been seen once at all events at our Zoological Gardens, this is distinctly a rarely imported bird, and, if Mr. Thorpe has a true pair, he is to be congratulated.

W.E.T.

Reference was made some time since in these notes to the sexual distinctions of the Green Jay (*Xanthura luxuosa*). So far from having reached a solution of the matter, the problem seems to me to become more and more difficult. I have now come across four types or phases of plumage, not counting the form with deep rufous breast which I take to be another species. First there is the type with the broad white frontal band, declared by a well known dealer to be distinctive of the male. Secondly the type with narrow frontal band, pronounced by the same importer to be a female. Thirdly the small specimen I recently described which has a bright green back without a trace of blue, and with a different call-note.

This bird, which I conjectured to be a female, is now in my outdoor aviary with two others but has so far given no indication of sex whatever. The other day another dealer proudly informed me that he had at last obtained two undoubted hens, and to my great surprise I was introduced to yet another distinct type. These two birds looked so very distinct that at first I thought they must belong to another species, but, on closer examination, I could only come to the conclusion that they were immature *X. luxuosa*. They were distinctly smaller, light chrome on the breast, instead of orange, and the tuft of feathers surrounding the nostrils was quite absent. They were imported with five of the ordinary type. W.E.T.

I have recently obtained from Austria a pair of Alpine Accentors (*Accentor alpinus*) and Snow Finches (*Fringilla nivalis*), and have been exceedingly interested in noting their habits in an outdoor aviary—in fact, seeing that the four birds cost me in all less than the lowest price asked for a Tanager, I have asked myself once again why we buy costly foreigners when we have such delightful (and cheap) British and European species. That the Alpine Accentor is interesting may be inferred from the fact that it has been classed with the Larks, the Warblers, the Wagtails and the Accentors. Of the species practically nothing is known in this country from an avicultural point of view, and even its habits seem not to have been well observed; for instance it is said to run and not to hop, whereas my birds hop and walk but do not run. My Snow-finches on the other hand run with great rapidity and do not hop. This Accentor is delightfully tame and has a pretty, warbling song. For an account of its habits and nesting see Zool. 1893, p. 309, and 1898, p. 475. The Snow Finch has a feeble song, but is a very handsome bird and is constantly on the wing.

W.E.T.

The well-known dealer De Von has recently received a very fine pair of the rare Himalayan Blue Flycatcher. S.M.T.

Just on going to press we learn that one of our members has been offered a White-eared Sunbird. W.T.P.

Post Mortem Reports.

(*Vide Rules*).

For replies by post, a fee of 2/6 *must be sent;* this regulation will not be broken under any condition.

Answered by post: Miss Cope Proctor.

YELLOW WAGTAIL. (H. V. Johnson). Cause of death, pneumonia.

——— (W. J. Lewis). Cause of death, pneumonia.

HEN CANARY. (Miss M. Gibbons). Cause of death, Canary fever.

WHITE JAVA. (Mrs. B. W. Hodgkins). Cause of death, pneumonia.

CANARY. (Mrs. Rogerson). Cause of death, bird fever.

HENRY GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

Mr. Willford's Aviaries—Interior of No. 5. *Photo by H. Willford.*

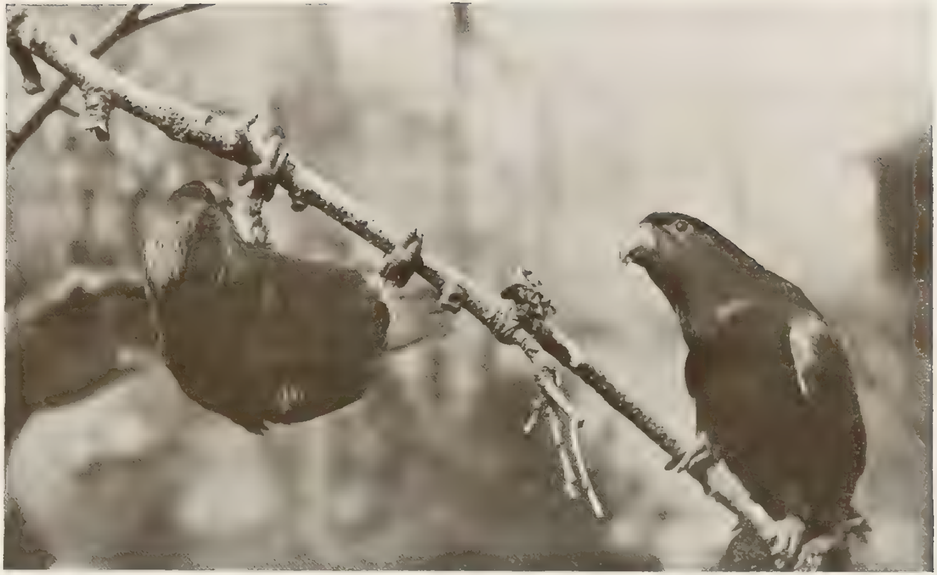

Photo by H. Willford.

Purple-capped Lories (*Lorius domicella*).

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JULY, 1909.

BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

My Birds and their Doings.

NESTING AND OTHER NOTES FOR 1909.

By H. WILLFORD.

Breeding results with me this spring have been far above the average, but this may be accounted for, no doubt, by the extra space allotted to the birds, the more natural conditions prevailing in the aviaries, in the form of shrubs in which to nest, and lawns on which many of the birds disport and probably pick up numerous small insects, which help them to keep fit and in superb condition, which to my mind is the chief factor of successful breeding.

Starting at aviary No. 6 (*see plan May issue*) which is about twenty-five feet square and is planted with yew, laurels, hollies, etc., the ground being turfed and having a bank running down one side on which the grass is allowed to run to seed, supplying the inmates with an ever ready larder in spring, summer and autumn, much to their liking.

In this aviary the following birds have already reared broods, have young, or are sitting on eggs:—BLACK-HEADED GOULDIANS: four young left the nest on June 1st. DIAMOND SPARROWS: four young left the nest May 28th. LONG-TAILED GRASSFINCHES: three flew May 25th. RED-HEADED FINCHES: a young cock left the nest June 3rd; besides these a pair of CHESTNUT-BREASTED FINCHES have one young nearly fledged,* this latter I believe is seldom bred, and I think I have only read of one instance of its having done so before.

One pair of RUFOUS-TAILED GRASSFINCHES have four young and another pair six eggs. QUAIL FINCHES have built in the bank mentioned above and seem about to lay. A pair of PILEATED FINCHES also seem desirous to nest, but no sooner do they get the foundation of their home laid than they pull it down again, the cock gets very much boycotted by his wife who constantly chases him round the aviary, but, in spite of this, they seem fond of each other.

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* This fledgeling left the nest June 26th.

With the exception of the GOULDIANS and the RED-HEADED FINCHES, which seem to prefer rush nest baskets under cover, all the other pairs have built in shrubs or in the grass bank, the usual domed nest of hay. The cock DIAMOND SPARROW seem to have taken upon himself the duty of looking after his young family, as the hen, having tidied up the nest and added considerably thereto, is now busily engaged in incubating her second clutch of eggs.

Amongst the misfortunes (for although I have had good luck I have also had bad) occurring in this aviary, the first was the death of three young Red-headed Finches about eight days old, and the second of a hen Crimson Finch sitting on fertile eggs, picked up also dead beneath her nest.

The only birds in this aviary that have not nested yet are: PEACEFUL DOVES, CRIMSON-WINGED FINCHES and PAINTED QUAIL.

Proceeding now to the Wilderness aviary, No. 5 (no longer a wilderness, *see plate*), here are now congregated many odd birds and only a few pairs; the first to nest was an odd English THRUSH, she built a nest in a Laurel bush, laying four eggs, which being of course infertile, she was given four eggs from the nest of a wild bird, two of which she reared.

COW BIRDS: One of the most interesting experiences I have had this year is the nesting of my RUDDY and SILKY COW-BIRDS; towards the end of April a GREEN CARDINAL built a nest in a small Fir tree, and on the 29th I noticed she had two eggs; on the morning of the 30th, when I again looked in the nest I found not only three of her own eggs but one of an entirely different colour: this latter was about the size of, or perhaps rather smaller than the Cardinals' eggs, being as long but narrower, the ground colour was of a creamish pink, blotched at the large end with clear and frosted spots of reddish brown; on the

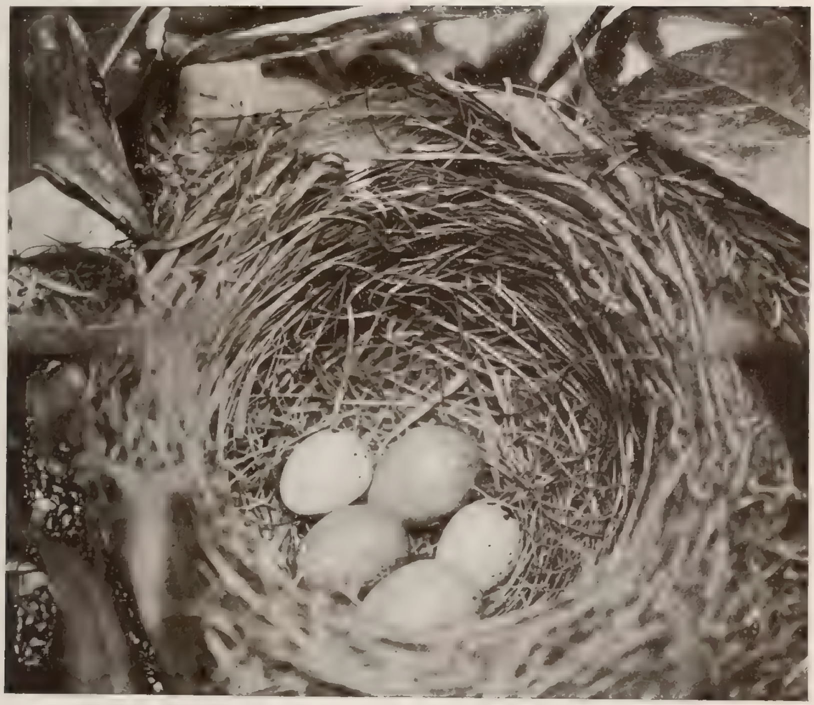

Photo by H. Willford.

The Silky Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*) laying in captivity.

Two eggs deposited in nest of the English Blackird in Mr. Willford's Aviary.

Photo by H. Willford.

Ariel Toucans.

Photo by H. Willford

Green Cardinals and Zebra Finches.

MR. WILLFORD'S AVIARIES.

2nd of May another of these eggs were laid in the same nest. By the 11th three young Cardinals were hatched, but not till the 14th did the Cowbirds' eggs chip, and the Cardinals having grown so rapidly in the meantime, that, fearing it was useless to allow the Silky's eggs to remain and hatch, probably only to be crushed by their larger companions, I removed the chipped eggs, and knowing of a Starling just hatching out gave them into her care.

On May 15th one egg was found hatched but the other was missing, the former did not have the appearance of having been fed, so it was again removed and placed with the young of the common Hedge Sparrow, but, alas! next day was found dead outside the nest, having been thrown out of the nest most probably after death, as I have found the Hedge Sparrow an excellent mother, one I remember sitting on some Ring Ouzels' eggs for several days until a Blackbird could be found to whom they could be given.

In the meantime a Blackbird had built in the Wilderness aviary, and on May 6th a Silky Cowbird's egg was found together with two Blackbirds' eggs, and on the 8th the Blackbird was sitting on three of her own eggs and two of the Silky Cowbirds' (*see photo of eggs and nest*) but again disappointment came, for on the following day the Silky's eggs had been thrown out of the nest and were picked up some distance away broken.

It will now be best to follow the doings of the RUDDY-SHOULDERED COWBIRDS. My first pair, which later proved to be two hens, built a nest, very round and rather deep inside, placed in a bush about three feet from the ground, the material used being hay and dried bents of grass. On May 9th the first egg was noticed, but if others were laid they must have been eaten as no trace of them was found.

I might here observe that one of these hens was constantly attended by a cock Bullfinch, and was often to be seen being fed by this admirer, so thinking he might be disturbing her proper nesting I removed him. On May 16th I found a second nest containing four Ruddy's eggs; I then came to the conclusion that I had been trying to breed from two hens, so having an odd cock from a pair, the hen of which had died, I turned him in with the two hens; he immediately began to disport himself, before one of the hens, cutting the most extraordinary antics dropping his wings and tail, and uttering the most peculiar sounds, and at last I felt hopeful, that if the hen would only lay again, of raising some young Ruddy-shoulders.

Now, however, a pair of Saffron Finches came on the scene and, having selected a nest box, they built and laid one egg, but being rather busy at the time I did not look again until the 26th, when, to my astonishment, I found the Saffrons sitting on three Ruddy-shouldered's and two Silky's eggs, her own having vanished ; four of these eggs proved fertile, and the first hatched on June 1st, two more on the 2nd, and the last on the 3rd, but whether the Saffrons could not find suitable food for their adopted children or not I cannot say, anyway, sad to relate, on the 4th three died, and on the 5th the remaining one followed suit, none of them having been fed.

The Ruddy's next attempt was discovered on the 26th of May, the nest being built between the boards of a shed and containing three Ruddy's and two Silky's eggs ; these all hatched on the 11th and 12th of June, but only lived two days.

On the 17th of June yet another nest was built, this one being lined with mud and then hay, placed among some branches covered with hops. The first egg was laid on the 19th and the second on the 20th of June. In the meantime the Silkies had not been idle, as on June 8th one egg was laid in a Thrushes' nest and promptly thrown out ; on the 4th an egg was laid in the nest of a GREEN CARDINAL, the latter hatched on June 16th, giving an incubation of twelve days. Since its birth two GREEN CARDINALS have been hatched in the same nest ; when seven days old they were all found dead, most probably owing to the heavy rains and cold winds which have predominated of late.

PURPLE-CAPPED LORIES (*Lorius domicella*). These are now enjoying semi-liberty, having a spacious aviary entirely to themselves, in the hope of inducing them to breed. Two eggs were laid in a log, while they were in the birdroom enclosure, but these were eaten. The cock I am convinced was the culprit, for the hen sat steadily for more than a week after the eggs had disappeared. When not brooding both birds are so tame that they can be allowed their freedom out of doors without risk, but when nesting they become really savage, especially the hen, They are most interesting, entertaining and beautiful birds (*see plate*).

ARIEL TOUCANS (*Rhamphastos ariel*). Since I have put these out of doors in a large aviary to themselves they have much improved. A large rotten log has been fixed up for them in the hope that they will nest; they always sleep in the log. Visitors admire these birds more than any others of my large avian family; they are very funny with their quaint antics, and are really interesting to watch as they disport themselves among the branches of their enclosure. After a flight they alight with quite a thud, crane out their necks and utter their harsh bray; at other times they sit almost statue-like (*see plate*).

(To be continued).

My Birds of Paradise.

By E. J. BROOK.

The Editor's notes on the new aviaries for Paradise Birds at the London Zoo remind me that I am under promise to him to write something for *Bird Notes* on my collection of Birds of Paradise.

I notice that Mr. Page rather regrets* that the new aviaries were not made larger. I am afraid if he saw mine he would think them far too small, as I think the compartments are considerably smaller than those provided in London.

The aviaries of my Paradise Birds consist of an inner house with service passage at back. This house measures 6ft. by 10ft. and has a flight 6ft. by 15ft. with plenty of head room. The reasons I did not make these compartments larger were that so many of these birds cannot be trusted with others, even a cock and hen of some of the larger species are not safe together, also, with a large collection, space has to be considered, and, in small aviaries, birds are easier to watch.

I am quite satisfied that these birds do not require much heat, but they do require a considerable amount of exercise and fresh air. Another matter I have noticed is the great dislike many of them have to a very strong light; in fact, to some, I believe a very strong sun is absolutely painful.

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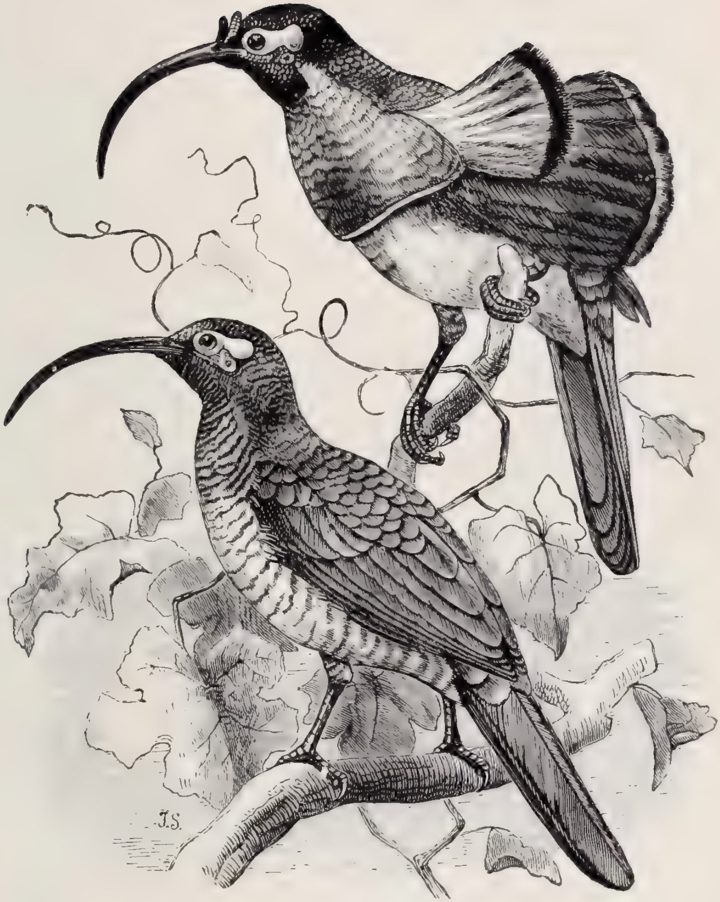
* I referred principally to the lack of "headroom."—ED.

It will be interesting to see how some of these birds, such as the *Raggiana*, get on with a mixed collection of small birds in the same aviary. My own *Raggianas* ♂ and ♀ I have to keep separate, the cocks (and I have had two) seem to be of rather a murderous disposition. The first I had tried to kill the hen and died himself from a wound received during the fight. While all these birds are both insectivorous and frugivorous some are distinctly carnivorous; a Lesser Bird (*P. minor*) I have will eat nearly as many mice as you like to give him, and one day I found that a Willow Wren had found its way into the aviary, but only the wings were left to tell the tale.

It is rather interesting to note how such species as the Kings and Hunstein's, while in immature plumage, will move about and go into the open much more freely than when in full feather. I conclude that the reason for this is that while in the sober brown of immaturity they are inconspicuous in any light; as soon as they have assumed adult plumage their bright colouring is only a protection if they keep quite still, and then they are just like the end of a shaft of sunlight penetrating high leafy trees.

I have not found the Paradise Birds particularly difficult to keep in health. I have ten species, and in two years I have lost eight birds; one died from enlarged liver, possibly the result of over feeding, another caught cold, and all the rest from accident or tape worm, the parasite probably being in the bird before it left its native country. Many of the birds seem rather particular in their choice of fruit; all except the *Albertisi* will eat sweet orange, some even eating the skin, many will not eat sweet water grapes freely, the whole grape is too large to swallow, and a cut up one seems to be a bad shape to swallow whole. The sort of fruits they all appreciate are such berries as privet, elder, rowan, and a new American berry called Wonderberry; these latter will, I think, be most useful, they are easily grown, and with a little management, the seeds can be sown at a time that will produce fruit when most required.

Nearly all the Paradise Birds show a considerable amount



D'Albertis' Bird of Paradise (*Drepanornis albertisi*) x $\frac{2}{3}$.

From The Cambridge Natural History (Vol. IX., Birds.)
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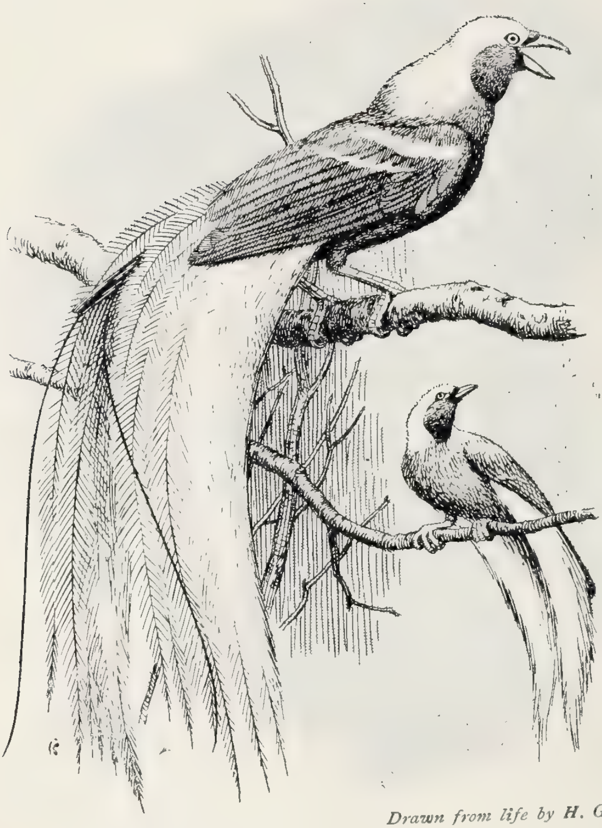


Drawn from life by H. Goodchild.

Lesser Bird of Paradise *(Paradisea minor).*

of intelligence and soon get very tame, the latter quality requires close watching, as the larger birds are apt to show their affection by a free use of their powerful beaks, and a blow on the face from the long hard beak of a "Twelve-wired Bird" might be dangerous and is certainly painful.

What the owners of Birds of Paradise are all looking for is, of course, the successful rearing of one of the various species in captivity. I do not see why these birds should not breed in captivity given suitable surroundings, but my idea is that the whole of the aviary that they are expected to breed in must be under cover, and in this aviary there must be a thicket of growing plants. I propose making an attempt on these lines with a pair of Kings, both young birds that have moulted together, the cock now coming into full adult plumage for the first time.

My collection consists of the following species:—

Count Raggi's (1 pair), Red (1 ♂), Lesser (1 ♂), Twelve-wired (1 ♂), King (2 pairs), Hunstein's (1 pair young, 1 pair mature), Lawe's Six-plumed (1 ♂ and 2 ♀), Superb (1 young ♂), D'Albertis' (1 ♂ young?) and Violet and Blue Manucode (1 pair).

The Birds of Gambia.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

(*Continued from page* 94).

ORIOLIDÆ.

Oriolus galbula. GOLDEN ORIOLE.

Range. Nearly the whole of Africa. Occurs in Senegambia. (*Sh.*)

O. auratus. AFRICAN GOLDEN ORIOLE.

Range. West, East and North-east Africa. (*Sh.*)

Golden Orioles are common in Gambia, where, I think, both of the above species occur. The main difference between the two is that in the first the black loral band only extends from the beak as far as the anterior border of the eye, while in the latter this band extends through the eye towards the ear-coverts. The males are beautiful birds, bright yellow, set off by black wings and tail; the hens and young are olive with blackish wings and tail. The young take at least two years to get their full colour. In May it is quite common to see two birds, nearly all olive-coloured with but a few yellow patches, courting one another and obviously preparing to nest.

They are particularly fond of the more wooded parts of the country; during the dry season are generally seen singly, but just before the rains, when their numbers are considerably increased, one finds them in small parties or pairs, travelling about the forest and feeding on the larger fruit-bearing trees. Their note is a flute-like whistle. They nest in the upper branches of tall trees. Native names: Katchaba (Mandingo); Ndukh and Katcha-Katcha (Joloff).

ALAUDIDÆ.

There is but one species of Lark common in Gambia; this is

Galerita senegalensis. SENEGAL CRESTED LARK.

This species ranges from the Mediterranean to the Niger and Somaliland, and eastwards to China. (*Sh.*)

In the Gambia it is a common resident, but more often seen from about September to March, then during the other half of the year. It is particularly common on the road and flats near the sea at Bathurst.

It is rather smaller than a Skylark and has a more noticeable crest, but its general markings are much the same as that bird. It never soars, and has no song to speak of, but is found in pairs or small parties, running about the ground and taking short flights from place to place.

Pyrrhulauda melanocephala.

WHITE-SHOULDERED SPARROW-LARK.

Is described as ranging from Senegambia to the Niger and East to Khartoum, probably also occurs in the Gambia, as there are specimens in the British Museum from Senegambia and the Casamance, the two immediately adjoining counties to the north and south of us. However I have as yet never met with the bird here.

MOTACILLIDÆ. WAGTAILS AND PIPITS.

Anthus gouldi. Range. West Africa.

The species is, I presume, the common Pipit of the Gambia. A pair shot (28/11/06) agreed well with the Catalogue's description of *A. gouldi.* They are everywhere common; plain-coloured little birds, which any day may be seen running about the fields or the edges of the swamp. They have a short song, which is delivered from the ground on the slight elevation of a tussock or small ant-heap. In the winter they collect in small parties, associating with Wagtails, and haunt the old corn-fields. When disturbed they take short flights, only to return as soon as possible to the point from which they were driven.

Mandingo name: Jattolingo; one of the many small birds to which this name applies.

Anthus trivialis. TREE PIPIT.

Ranges from Europe to India and Africa.

In May, 1907, I saw at close range a single Pipit in Bathurst, which I am almost sure was this Pipit; it certainly was not one of the common Pipits of the up-country (*gouldi*). There is one specimen of the Tree Pipit in the British Museum from Daka, the capital of Senegal, which is only 70 miles to the North of us.

Anthus campestris. TAWNY PIPIT.

Range. Europe; Asia; southward to the Gambia and Somaliland. (*Sh.*)

I have never to my knowledge seen this species in the Gambia.

Macronyx croceus. YELLOW-THROATED LONG-CLAW.

Range. Africa, south from Senegal, etc., avoiding the actual forest. (*Sh.*)

In Gambia it is locally common, found generally in pairs in the long grass near swamps and rice fields, and is particularly partial to the matted tussocky grass which grows on the saltish soil at the edges of mangrove swamps.

It is a beautiful bird, about the size and shape of a Skylark, marked like that bird above, but below having the throat and breast in both sexes a brilliant yellow. The name "Longclaw" is given to it owing to the extreme length of the claws on the hind toes, a Lark-like feature, which must be of service to the bird in facilitating its progress over down-trodden or storm-laid grass. It is generally met with in pairs, and occasionally in family parties of half a dozen; when disturbed, but then not till they are nearly stepped on, they rise like Larks, but never attempt to soar, and drop into the grass again at the first opportunity. I once found a nest, merely a hollow (a hoof-mark) lined with a little grass, which contained four cream-coloured eggs spotted with brown.

(To be continued.)

Nesting of Blackcaps and Snowbunting.

By R. SUGGITT.

For the first year of their aviary life, some species of British birds do not appear to become thoroughly accustomed to their surroundings; if, however, one is fortunate enough to keep them in good health through the winter, they will usually make some attempt to reproduce their kind the following spring.

I selected a pair of Blackcaps out of several young ones in immature plumage which I caught in August, 1907. They were in the outdoor aviary in the spring and summer of 1908, but although the male often carried pieces of fine hay about, there was no serious nesting that year. I caged them for the winter, and turned them out again in April of the present year.

Towards the end of May I noticed both birds carrying nesting material about, and on June 2nd I discovered their half-completed nest. It was situated on the thin horizontal branch of an apple tree, about three feet from the ground, and was supported by one or two twigs which were woven into the sides. The nest was fairly well screened with ivy and was strongly built, but of very light material. Both male and female worked on its construction, and it was amusing to see the roundabout way in which they conveyed the material to the nest, always taking cover, as though anxious to avoid the observation of possible enemies. While building they were constantly calling to each other with a low, twittering note.

On June 6th, the nest contained three eggs; in the afternoon I saw the male incubating. Incubation was equally shared throughout the day by both sexes; they relieved each other frequently, but never appeared to leave the nest unoccupied for a moment. I was not able to ascertain which of them incubated at night, as I did not care to risk disturbing them at dusk, and the nest was rather difficult to see at a little distance; on one occasion I saw the male on the nest at 7.30 p.m.

Little notice was taken of other birds perched near the nest, with the exception of Whitethroats which were savagely driven away.

It was not until June 19th, when I saw the female come off to drive away a Whitethroat, that I had another peep into the nest and I found that young were hatched, probably that morning, as I could see two unhatched eggs as well as the young ones. This gives thirteen days as the incubation period. The next day all the eggs were hatched, but the chicks appeared to be very weak. On the 21st three were left, on the 22nd one, and the morning after the nest was empty.

I suppose the food (gentles and small mealworms), was unsuitable for the nestlings, which died one by one and were thrown out of the nest by the parents. The failure was certainly through no fault of the old birds, for they worked incessantly to provide for their brood.

They have built another nest at the top of a thick hedge and have now (June 29th) probably laid again.

* * *

A hen Snow Bunting in my aviary, unable to find a suitable place in which to make her nest, laid three eggs in a Pied Wagtail's nest, which the latter had built in a small heap of bricks. After laying her third egg she completely disappeared.

This hen, last year, paired with a cock Reed Bunting in another aviary, laid a clutch of eggs and sat for a fortnight; but the eggs were infertile.

In the "Zoologist" the following references to this species appears :—

1875. p. 4290 : Stevenson of Norwich, nest destroyed.
,, p. 4380 : F. Nicholson, Chester, 3 eggs one year, 3 young the next year, but they died in nest.
1887. p. 391 : J. E. Harting writes : A pair in Elgin Museum. Female—laid two eggs, but was disturbed and eggs addled.

In Mr. St. Quintin's aviaries, this species has nested on several occasions, but no young have been reared. Early in June of the present year they were again incubating, but at time of going to press result was not to hand.

Book Notices and Reviews.

BRITISH BIRDS FOR CAGES, AVIARIES AND EXHIBITION, by Sumner W. Birchley. Sherratt & Hughes, 33, Soho Square, London, W. In two vols., 25/- nett.

The books on British Birds are legion, and it would seem that the ground was fully covered, but Mr. S. W. Birchley has given us a very comprehensive and practical treatise of such species as are usually kept in captivity. It runs into two handsome volumes of over 300 pages each; each species is well-figured on full page half-tone plates; the text well and clearly printed on good paper with wide margins. It is concise, comprehensive and interesting, each species being dealt with under the following headings :—*Description ; Habitation ; Nest and Eggs ; Countryside Notes ; Catching ; Hand-rearing ; Meating-off ; Steadying and General Feeding ; Exhibiting* and *Attractive Qualities.* It is a book which we can cordially recommend to all lovers of our native avifauna. By the courtesy of the Publishers we are permitted to reproduce one of the illustrations (Reed Warbler), which with the account of same, reprinted in full, will indicate the character, scope and interest of the work.

"REED WARBLER. *Description of Parent Birds.* Length about five and a half inches; bill slender, medium length and straight; head, neck, back and upper tail coverts a warm chestnut-brown; shading to a lighter hue on the wings; tail light brown; wing quills dark brown; edged with a paler shade; a pale sulphur streak extends from the gape over the eye; chin and throat white; breast, belly and under tail-coverts buffish-white. Female: very similar indeed to the male, perhaps a shade smaller and paler in back colouring.

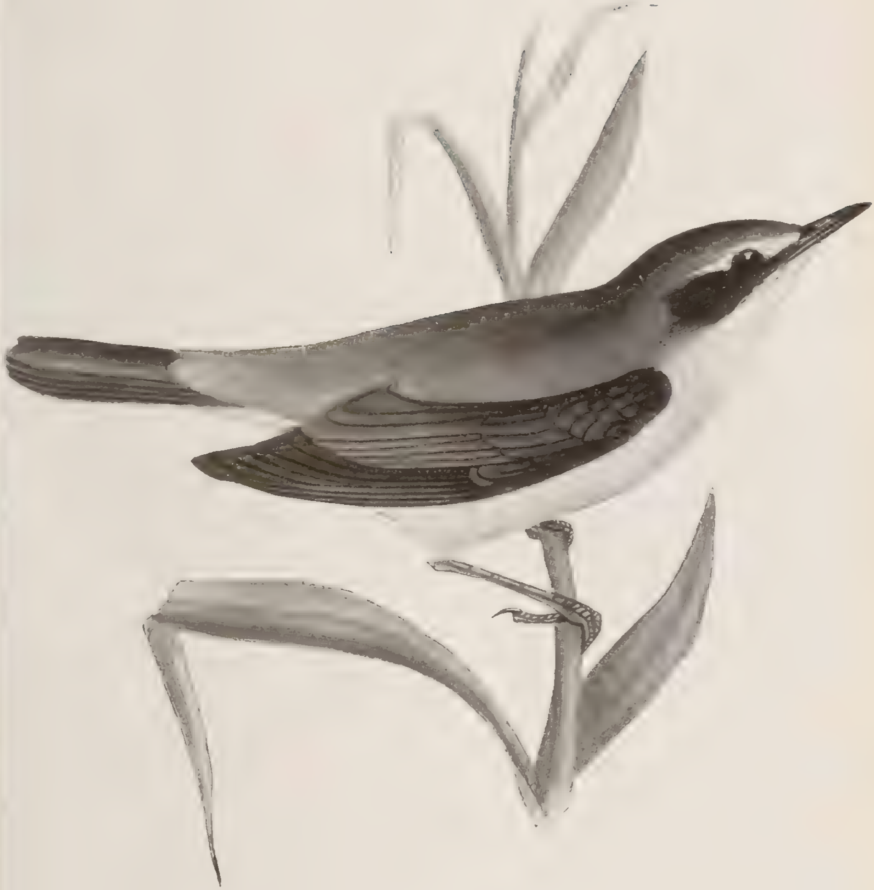
"*Habitation.* Generally common in the Southern, Western and Midland Counties of England and Wales, on the banks of rivers, lakes and streams where reeds abound.

"*Nest and Eggs.* The former is almost a work of art, being most ingeniously woven into the stems of reeds, to thus hold it secure in case of storm or flood. It is very deep and cup like in formation, and is composed of dried grass, moss and bents with lining of finer materials. Four eggs are the general number to a clutch, of a greenish-white colour, heavily mottled and spotted with a darker shade of the same colour. Time: June and July.

"*Countryside Notes.* In the tall reed beds at the side of some friendly river the Reed Warbler makes his home, and is seldom seen or heard many many yards away from his little abode, although occasionally he crosses to the other side, thinking perhaps to find some nice plump grub on yonder reeds.

"He is practically unknown in Scotland and Ireland, but why this should be, other than unsuitable climate, I cannot say.

"Often when I have sat by the river as a disciple of Izaak Walton, his curious little notes have rung out from the reed beds in front of me, when, but for the moving of the reeds, you would never know he was there, for he is for the greater part of his life hid from view, and it is no easy task to get even a glimpse of him, always creeping mouse-like from reed to reed, first head downwards, then holding on to two reeds at once, presently turning almost a somersault from the upper part of the stem to the lower. Constantly, as he moves along, he chatters away with great gusto, as if well pleased with himself and those depending on him.



The Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus stréperus*).

From British Birds for Cage, Aviary and Exhibition,
By permissson of the Publishers.

"*Catching.* The taking of this bird is a most difficult task. I have only had the luck to catch one in my life, and that was done in rather a simple way. I was having a day's fishing in the Severn, beyond Tewkesbury, and took three rods with me. It was a glorious day, in fact rather too much so from an angling point of view. I rigged up two of the rods first, and left the third in the case thinking I would see what was going before I used the third. Fishing is, at the best of times, a tame job, and that day it was particularly so, and if it had not been for the bit of life that a Reed Warbler in some reeds close by, added to the quietness of the scene, I should certainly have gone to sleep (like a great many anglers do I believe). However, the little chap kept on chattering to himself, till at last I thought I would see if I could get him, which, by the way, I should not have done had it not been well on in August and the breeding season over. I went a yard or two down the bank to see what chance there was of securing him. I noticed a gap in the reeds, which were not very wide at that spot, where a barge or a punt had apparently been standing. It was in this opening that I placed my other rod, with the top joint for about a foot down, nicely laid with lime, which I always carry with me. I baited this by pinning a gentle in the midst, and in less than half an hour the little chap was mine. He was a beautiful specimen, and lived a long time in the cage I constructed on purpose for him.

"*Hand Rearing.* Do this by all means if you have the good fortune to get hold of a nest of young. Take at nine or ten days, nest and all, and treat the same as recommended in the the case of the 'Gale.'*

"*Meating off, Steadying and General Feeding.* Follow out the instructions given for the Sedge Warbler and your bird will thrive.*

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* Too lengthy to reprint here in full ". . . . . having got your prize home, keep them near the kitchen fire (this is within reason), and at night cover them right over with cotton wool—draughts must be avoided at all costs. Prepare a food of two parts live ants' eggs (soaked and dried in a towel), hard boiled egg and grated carrot two parts, make into a stiff paste and feed every hour and half, supplying water from a quill three or four times a day. A plentiful supply of live food must be given during the moult."

"*Exhibiting.* Although the Reed Warbler is but rarely shown, I know of no reason why, but the fact that it is difficult to obtain. A good one should take a lot of stopping if in good feather and condition. In a show specimen you need as large a bird as possible, of a rich colour throughout, markings on the head distinct, the eye streaks prominent and free from breaks.

"*Attractive Qualities.* A sweet bird all over is the least that can be said of the Reed Warbler, for he is of graceful shape and most comely in appearance. I have not found him difficult to cater for, and if well fed will often please you with his curious little song in the spring and summer. I made quite a pet of the only one I ever caught, it became remarkably tame and fearless, and always seemed quite at home."

There are also chapters on Common Ailments, The Moult, The Bird Room and Cages, Aviaries and Utensils, with good figures of almost every type of cage required and also in- and outdoor aviaries. It should prove a welcome addition to the bookshelf of every British bird keeper.

THE MAKING OF SPECIES, by Messrs. D. Dewar and F. FINN. J. Lane, The Bodley Head, Vigo Street, London, W. 7s. 6d. net.

Our esteemed members have produced a book which will charm the thoughtful reader, and direct attention to many unsolved or wrongly solved problems of evolution. It has come to hand too late for review in this issue, but there are several features which may be briefly referred to.

They insist and, in the writer's opinion, rightly so, that :

> "natural selection, although a most important factor in evolution, is not an indispensable one."
>
> "evolution is possible without natural selection."

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* "Stock mixture : two parts best ants' eggs, one part each of Osborne biscuit and hard boiled egg (fresh), moisten same with a little grated raw carrot, or boiled potato, and serve fresh every morning—about half-a-dozen mealworms should be given daily—spiders, green caterpillars and various flies, likewise wasp grubs and *scalded* gentles will be appreciated, but do not over-do your bird with insect life one day and nothing the next."

> "The real problem, is the cause of variations and mutations, or in other words, how species originate."

They support their conclusions, by bringing impartially together all available facts bearing upon the subject discussed, but we must leave further remarks till our next issue.

To the aviculturist, it will be of great interest, and should set him thinking, if so, he will see many ways, in which by studying his birds, and the keeping of careful notes, he will be able to throw some light upon the intricate, but fascinating problem of evolution. We strongly recommend all our members interested in the Origin of Species to procure THE MAKING OF SPECIES at once.

BIRD NEWS. This is a new bi-monthly magazine, published by the Avicultural Society of California, edited by F. W. D'Evelyn, whom many will remember as a former editor of *The Condor*." No. 3 of the first Vol. is to hand, and already there are signs of progress. No. 1 consisted of only eight pages; the present issue contains twelve pages of interesting articles and notes. H. L. Sefton continues his article on "Raising Wild Fowl on a Southern Californian Ranch"; "Protection of Birds in Japan"; "Raising Californian Valley Quail" (W. N. Dirks); "Humming Birds as House Pets" (Mrs. Emerson-Crowell); "Commercial Feather 'Breeding'—Ostrich Farming"; and "The Pekin Nightingale" (Dr. S. R. Jacobs). With such beginnings we may venture to say that the success of the first Avicultural Journal across the Atlantic is assured. We wish the Society (a Society with aims similar to our own) all success and an increasing sphere of usefulness.

Editorial.

LIVE GENTLES: *are they safe for nestlings?* It is a well known fact that these have been looked upon with suspicion by many aviculturists for some time past, and though evidence at present is not by any means conclusive, it would yet appear that there are strong grounds for these suspicions. So far as my experience goes—which certainly is not great, as living in London makes gentle breeding almost an impossibility for me—it leads me to the conclusion that providing they have been well scoured, these larvæ are a safe article of diet for *adult birds of all species*, and also for those with young, which feed from the crop, or habitually kill their live food before swallowing; but that for such species as supply such food alive to their young they are unsafe and very probably the cause of the loss of many promising fledgelings. I consider the matter well worth consideration, and hope that those of our members who use these larvæ, will record their experience and also take observation of results if they have not already done so.

I wish to draw attention to the following facts:—In last issue I recorded the failure of the attempt of my Grey-winged Ouzels to reproduce their kind in captivity. In the interval a second brood has been hatched, one young bird reaching the age of nine days, the other disappeared on the second day; it was very strong and lusty and I had great hopes of its being successfully reared. Owing to the kindness of our esteemed member, Mr. R. Suggitt, I received a supply of well scoured gentles to assist towards this end; these were supplied to the birds on the evening of the third day, and all went well up to the end of the eighth day, when I formed the conclusion that the nestling was not calling so lustily when feeding time came round, and this was more apparent the next day for I scarcely heard it at all, though I saw the hen bird feed, or attempt to do so, more than once. On the morning of the tenth day, neither of the parents being near the nest, I put my hand in, and finding the fledgeling quite cold, removed it from the nest and found its crop and throat full of live gentles. The parents were most assiduous in feeding their young, and it is quite possible that they fed after the digestive organs had ceased to act from some unknown cause, but the facts are these:—When I examined the body the throat of the fledgeling was full of live gentles, with their jaws stained red, feeding on the interior of the mouth and throat; as to whether they were the actual cause of death I cannot say, but it seems very probable that such was the case.

The Ouzels do not kill their live food before swallowing, except in such cases as large earthworms, and the maggots having been dropped alive into the youngsters throat had crawled back again, as there were none present in the nest, only in the throat of the fledgeling.

I have used living gentles before on many occasions, but it has been with such species that either feed from the crop or kill their live food before swallowing, and there has been no harmful effect; neither have I found any ill effects from using these larvæ with adult birds, though I did have a Chinese Quail which almost lived on mealworms, all of which he swallowed alive, die somewhat suddenly after a period of screaming: two hours after its death mealworms crawled out from the eye and ear apertures.

In response to my enquiries as to his experience with live gentles, Mr. Teschemaker replies as follows:—

> "I have always been rather suspicious of them, because I have found them alive in the crop of nestlings twenty minutes after feeding; still I certainly reared one nest of Virginian Cardinals on gentles alone, and I have *hand reared* Stonechats and Ring Ouzels on gentles and an ordinary soft food mixture."

While, as already intimated, the evidence cannot as yet be considered conclusive either one way or the other, yet it appears that it would be a wise precaution to first kill gentles by sudden immersion in boiling water or some other speedy means just before supplying to the birds.

I hope very many of our members will respond and place on record their experience on this topic, as such will certainly be profitable, practical and interesting.

THE SUCCESSFUL BREEDING OF INSECTIVOROUS SPECIES IN CAPTIVITY: Recently we have seen it stated that the young of such species can be successfully reared without an unlimited supply of live food. So far as my experience goes this is not in accordance with the weight of evidence. Take my recent failures with the Grey-winged Ouzels: in the enclosure they occupied food was in sufficient variety to keep the insectivora, granivora and frugivora in health and vigour, yet this did not suffice, and I failed because my business engagements *did not permit me to be on hand every hour to supply live food.* The general experience of large aviarists who attempt to breed the insectivora and even the partial insectivora, is that, though the adult birds are quite content with soft food mixtures and a small quantity of live food, *they will not feed their young thereon.* You can hand rear the young of insectivorous species on artificial food, but the parent birds will not rear their young thereon.

Moreover, I am a frequent visitor to the Zoo, and know from conversation with the various keepers, as well as from personal observation, that the young reared in the Gardens have been reared on unlimited live food; and this seems to be the general experience.

I hope the above notes will call forth a general response, that many will record their experience and some practical data should be the result.

NESTING NOTES: In far away India, our esteemed member Capt. G. A. Perreau, who only returned there last March, is already getting good breeding results. He set out about mid-February on his return journey, after a twelve month's vacation in this country, with over 130 finches, parrakeets, etc., including such as Firefinches and Cordon Bleus, and landed the whole, with only three losses, in good condition at Bakloh. Surely this amply indicates that Firefinches and Cordon Bleus could be brought over in good condition, if proper attention were paid to feeding and sanitation.

Short as the period is since his arrival at Bakloh, Capt. Perreau has young of Zebra,. Ribbon and Bib Finches, Rufous- and Long-tailed Grassfinches, Green and Red Avadavats, while the following are engaged in the duties of incubation: Crimson Finches, Gold-breasted Waxbills, Bengalese, Cordon Bleus; also the following parrakeets: Mealy Rosella, Red-rump, White-eared Conures and Black-cheeked Lovebirds have both eggs and young.

Miss M. E. Baker writes me (June 29) she has a nest of MALABAR STARLINGS, seven days old, apparently very strong and vigorous, but they have not been closely examined for fear of causing their parents to forsake them, but they are certainly very lusty judging by the way they call for food. Miss Baker is supplying soft food and an unlimited supply of live insects; there appears to be very good prospect of them being successfully reared as the parent birds are very tame and will take food from the hand, which makes keeping them supplied with live food a much easier matter.

Mr. H. W. Mathias also writes (June 29) that he has three young BLACK-CHEEKED LOVEBIRDS (*Agapornis nigrigenis*) on the wing, they are well feathered, very vigorous, and also tame. Details as to incubation cannot be given, as fear of disturbing the birds kept curiosity in check; however, the whole period covered can be given: they commenced nesting on April 16th and the young left the nest on June 26th, a period of ten weeks. Apart from Canaries and Budgerigars, the only other birds nesting are RUFICAUDAS (*Bathilda ruficauda*) and a second pair of *nigrigenis*, but Stanley Parrakeets (*Platycercus icterotis*) are about to lay, and PARROT FINCHES (*Erythura psittacea*) are carrying nesting material.

Mr. W. E. Teschemaker has RUFOUS-BACKED MANNIKINS on the wing; this I believe to be the first instance of their successful breeding in the British Isles. Many nests have been lost owing to the cold and damp, among which may be mentioned Red-whiskered Bulbuls, Pekin Robins, Blue Grosbeaks and many others. In many districts it will be only late broods, that will save the season from being one of the worst known from a breeding point of view.

Just on going to press, we learn that Mr. Teschemaker has young of Blackcaps and Blue Grosbeaks doing well; Jerdon's Accentors incubating: Black-headed Siskins and Violet Tanagers building; we can only hope all these will successfully rear their young.

In the North things are but little better. Mr. Suggitt writes me that so far he has only had young from Red-headed Finches and Long-tailed Grassfinches.

GREEN GLOSSY STARLINGS (*Lamprocolius chalybeus*): Our esteemed member, Mr. Bush, informs me that this species has bred freely in his aviary and that he was surprised to find the nestling plumage glossy. . . . . We hope to give a detailed account of this most interesting event in our next issue, which I believe to be the first occasion on which this species has reared young in this country.

ZOO NOTES : These could be made quite lengthy, but our space is already occupied and a full reference thereto must be left till next issue. A young Black Tanager has been reared and is now on the wing in one of the new flights outside the Small Birds' House. This species was first reared by our esteemed member, Mr. W. E. Teschemaker, in 1906. The following have also been reared :—

Two Australian Rails (*Rallus pectoralis*) ; fifteen English Partridges ; two Hybrid Pectoral × Rain Quail and one Willow Grouse.

Malabar Mynahs have young not yet out of the nest.

I also noted quite a number of recent arrivals, all I believe *new to the collection.*

One pair Black-sided Hangnests (*Icterus abeillii*).

One pair Mexican Hangnests (*Icterus parisorum*).

One pair Mexican Rosefinches, a really charming species ; the general body plumage of the male being rich brown ; frontal band, upper eye streak and rump brilliant crimson. The female is brown above ; pale buffish beneath, with distinct Thrush-like striations.

One pair Mexican Siskins. The male is deep black above, with white wing bars ; rich sulphur yellow below. The female is dusky-olive above and yellowish, slightly tinged with green below.

Two White-backed Lories (*Eos fuscata.*). A very handsome species, too much variegated for word painting—the upper surface is black with a bronzy tinge, varied with patches of subdued mahogany colour and red in various shades to a bright patch of golden-bronze on the front of crown ; the undersurface is lighter and of a brighter hue, crossed and scaled with red, blue and orange. The above two birds are very probably a true pair.

Two Black-winged Lories (*Eos cyanogenys*). Distinctly rare, I only know of two others at present in this country, one in the possession of Mr. E. J. Brook, and the other adorns the collection of Mr. O. Millsum, the latter will be figured in colour in a near issue of " Bird Notes " so refrain from further notes here. Apparently a true pair.

There was also a very handsome Weaver, sent by our esteemed member, Dr. E. O. Hopkinson ; nutmeg brown above, with the throat and breast rich red, and the upper abdomen and sides thickly spotted with white on a black ground.

A pair of Grey-winged Ouzels in one of the paddocks opposite the Apes House have hatched out, but the young were unfortunately drowned during the recent heavy rains.

MARKING MIGRATING BIRDS: We have been requested to draw attention to a scheme for marking migrating birds; we have much pleasure in doing so, and hope all of our members who can will lend their co-operation.

"A short while ago a Stork was shot in Rhodesia bearing upon its leg a metal ring, which proved that the bird had been marked in Prussia, when it was a nestling, by the Rossitten Bird Observatory, while more recently a Stork similarly 'ringed' in Hungary was shot in the Kalahary Desert.

Mr. H. F. Witherby, the Editor of *British Birds*, is inaugurating in connection with his Magazine a scheme for marking birds in a similar way in this country. It is hoped by this means to gain a more exact idea of the movements of individual birds than has ever been possible by any other method, and this should not only throw light upon the more general aspects of migration, but it should tell us a great deal that is at present obscure with regard to particular points. For example, while we may know the general distribution of a species in winter and summer, we do not know the extent of the migration of individual birds; or, indeed, whether in such cases as the Song-Thrush and Robin, certain individuals migrate at all. The movements of sea-birds are very little understood, and much might be learned from marking a large number. This plan might also tell us what influence age has upon plumage, etc.; where a young bird, whose birthplace is known, breeds; whether individuals return to previous nesting haunts, and whether pairs come together again in successive breeding seasons.

A number of the readers of *British Birds* are taking the matter up, and it is expected that a large number of birds of all kinds will be ringed this summer. The rings are extremely light and do not in any way interfere with the bird's power of flight; each is stamped 'Witherby, High Holborn, London,' and bears a distinctive number, which in the smaller sizes is stamped inside the ring, and it is hoped that anyone into whose hands should fall a bird so marked will send the bird and the ring, or, if this is not possible, then the particulars of the number on the ring, the species of bird, and the locality and date of capture to the address given."

THE GIZA ZOO: We have received the Annual Report and List of Animals of these well-controlled Gardens. The collection is a large and representative one and evidently well housed and cared for. The Director of the Gardens is our esteemed member, Capt. S. S. Flower. We note, that, quite a large number of Mammals were bred, also the following birds have successfully reared young: Zebra Finches, 7; Java Sparrows, 6; Dongola Sparrow, 1; Pelicans, 5 including 1 hybrid, probably *P. onocrotalus* + *P. rufescens*; Buff-backed Egrets, 5; Barbary Dove, 1; Bocage's Red-eyed Dove, 1; Egyptian Palm Dove, 6; Dongola Palm Doves, 4; Barred Doves, 5; Egyptian Partridges, 6; Purple Coots, 3. The management are to be congratulated on such results. We hope to note some of the special features of the Report, which is very comprehensive and well illustrated with eight excellent photographic reproductions, in our next issue.

ISLE OF WIGHT BEE DISEASE: By request we bring the following to the notice of our readers: The Board of Agriculture and Fisheries desire to warn all bee-keepers that an outbreak of disease, believed to be identical with the Isle of Wight Bee Disease, has occurred in several hives in Buckinghamshire. This disease—which has destroyed almost all the bees in the Island, from which it takes its name—is due to a bacillus closely resembling the bacillus of Plague, and no remedy for it is known. It is of the utmost importance, therefore, that bee-keepers should take every precaution to prevent the disease spreading, and they are strongly advised to keep a careful watch for any sign of its appearance. A full description of the disease was published in the Journal of the Board of Agriculture for February, 1909, and bee-keepers who find symptoms of disease corresponding to the description there given should communicate with the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 4, Whitehall Place, London, S.W.

A UNIQUE RARITY: Our esteemed member, Mr. O. Millsum, is the happy possessor of an Orange Pericroctus (*Pericroctus flammeus*): vide p. 48 of current vol.

ERRATA: On page 98, line 5, for *Octinops* read *Ostinops*.

Bird Notes from Far and Near.

HUMMING BIRDS as House Pets (Mrs. Emerson-Crowell, California). One of the most wonderful of nature's works is the "hummer." Its breast covered with iridescent plumage; its wings of gauze hovering hither and thither over the bright blossoms in search of sweets, hidden in the depths of each corolla. When the cup is drained, with a quick dart he is away to other fields of luxury.

I had often wished to companionize them, and in the spring of 1882 my son and I found a nest of Allen's Humming Birds (*Selasphorus alleni*), with the young just about ready to fly. I carried them home and fed with moistened sugar. . . . . . they were soon taught to thrust in their bills into a glass filled with syrup . . . . soon they learned to go to their cage and feed themselves, they were allowed to fly about the rooms through the day, as screens at the doors and windows prevented their escaping . . . very soon they would come to my call and feed from my lips. . . . I have often seen both making short turns, and not stop until one or other made captive a fly. . . . When their food was gone they would poise themselves in the air close to my mouth and thrust their bills between my lips, then fly back to their empty cup, then back to my mouth, repeating it until I answered their demands . . . . they were taught to gather honey from flowers, by putting some scarlet geraniums in a vase on the table, I called my pets, holding out my brush on which they alighted, then placed a drop of syrup in the centre of each blossom, then putting their bills in the drops of sweets, which they sipped greedily, trying each flower hovering in the air as we see them out of doors . . . . there was no need to repeat the lesson, for whenever flowers were brought into the room there was a gleaning without delay . . . . They were very apt in learning and fond of caresses, allowing me to stroke them and turning their heads to one side as if listening to my words . . . . There is a sad ending to this charming little story . . . . when about three months old, the smaller and brighter of the two alighted on the head of a friend and remained there till I called it, and as it flew to my lips for sugar, finding none, hastening to its cage; as it was alighting, its companion who was at the cup, gave it a sharp pick on the head which stunned the little fellow, and it dropped to the floor. I picked it up and placed it on the perch by the food, it would not eat, seemed dazed and died on the following day. The remaining one went from room to room, calling most pitifully for its mate, refused to eat, and after the second day it died. . . . I cannot express how I missed my pets . . . . we had learned so much of their ways and habits, their happy chirpy notes, quick flights, winsome manners, etc., were as a golden ray of sunshine to brighten our every day life of cares, and I am just humane enough to say I missed my little friends and mourned for them, many and many a summer day. From *Bird News*. W. T. P.

NATURE NOTES—NEW ZEALAND.

TEN DAYS ON THE WEST COAST.

By James Drummond, F.L.S., F.Z.S.

NESTLING KINGFISHERS : One day, when I was tramping through the forest near Mr. Gates' house, south of Hokitika, I heard a sound that attracted my attention by its strangeness. It was loud enough to make me stop and listen. It was of a buzzing and wheezing character, and it continued without a break, and in the same monotonous tone, like the chorus of the cicada. . . . . . Tracing the sound for about ten feet, I came to the decayed stump of an old white pine, riddled and rotted with the operations of the borer. The stump still stood upright, but the elements had claimed so much of it that only fifteen or twelve feet were left. The sound came from inside the stump, about half-way up its length. Drawing nearer, I saw a hole in the side of the trunk. The interior was dark, and the hole seemed to be filled with the sound. I inserted my hand, and withdrew it again with a fluffy, long-beaked, large-headed Kingfisher, which had not yet learnt to fly, but which evidently had a grievance against its parents, as when I took it out into the daylight and subjected it to a careful examination, it kept opening and shutting its bill and giving out its mournful and miserable cry. It did not resent my interference. It took no more notice of me than it would have taken of its parents. It only cried all the time, presumably for food, and voiced its deep-seated grievance

There were four chicks in the nest, but all except the one I handled were as silent as the grave. They were exceedingly ugly. Their plumage gave no promises of the gaudy colors it has assumed by this time, when the adult stage has been reached. It was streaked with white, and the bills seemed to be so much out of proportion to the bodies that the heads hung forward, as if they were too heavy to be raised. The nest was unlike the nests of other Kingfishers I have seen. Apparently an old hole had been used. It was only a few inches deep in the wood, but it had been hollowed out in order to make one large chamber. There was no tunnel. The entrance was straight on to the chamber, which was so small that the chicks were huddled together very uncomfortably. At daybreak next morning I visited the nest, expecting to see the parents, but I saw nothing of them on that occasion or at any other time, although I watched at all times of the day. The condition of the chicks showed that their wants had been carefully attended to, and I came to the conclusion that they must have been fed at night.

From the *N.Z. Herald.* *per* F. HOWE.

FANTAILS take advantage of suitable trees near the banks of the Mahinapua creek to build their nests and rear their young. I have never seen Fantails in larger numbers than near Hokitika. Both the Black and the Pied species showed themselves at all times of the day. I do not intend to enter just now into the controversy that has been carried on in "Magister's" column in the Otago Daily Times as to whether the Black and the Pied are two true species, but I was impressed with that fact that I never saw two black or two pied fantails together; the pair always consisted of a representation of each colour. Nature, as a rule, is very fair in her gifts. She seldom gives many in one direction. This seems to account for the fact that although the Fantail's appearance and manner are charming, it is utterly devoid of song and has a rather unpleasant squeaking note, in which there is absolutely no music. There is no native bird that has the same pretty little flight. It alights silently on a bough or a twig, opens and shuts its fanlike tail, turns round several times, and then takes a short but remarkably rapid dive into the air, and up it comes again, to light once more on its bough and show off its handsome tail. Its habit of drooping its wings when it spreads its tail adds to its appearance. It occasionally hangs on its bough for a second, with its head downward, like the whitehead of the North Island, before it dives into the air. It is never ungraceful, never intrusive, never wearisome, and never unwelcome to those who go into the forests for either business or pleasure.

From the *N.Z. Herald.* *per* F. HOWE.

The Brown Creeper, a bird about the size of the sparrow and with a costume as plain and sober, is very plentiful in the Hokitika district. It is seldom seen except in large flocks, which usually fly amongst the trees on the edges of the forest. From a purely musical point of view the great charmer is the Grey-warbler, which is specially well represented. It is an inconspicous, plainly-clad, delicate-looking little bird. It illustrates my previous remark in regard to the distribution of Nature's gifts. There is nothing attractive in its appearance, but it has surpassing musical talent. The silvery notes of its song are not loud—they might lose in quality if they were—but they are so clear that they travel for a long distance. Sometimes the song comes from an invisible bird up in the trees. A few minutes later a rustling in the leaves shows that the singer has come nearer, and its grey body is seen. It may stay for five or even ten minutes. It is then lost sight of, and the plaintive notes are heard fifty or sixty yards away coming down from the pine-tree tops.

From the *N.Z. Herald.* *per* F. HOWE.

The Month's Arrivals.

THE VERDITER FLYCATCHER (*Stoparola melanops*). Just a bare notice was given this interesting arrival in our last issue. Flycatchers are perhaps not easy birds to keep in captivity: they need careful feeding, roomy quarters and watchful attention, at any rate till they are established, but seeing that they are found in such parts of India, where the climatic conditions are very near akin to those of England, there should be no difficulty in keeping them in finest condition during the summer months, in an outdoor aviary, where their flycatching propensities would reveal, in all its fulness, their marvellous beauty. There would also be a strong probability of their breeding, if the aviary provided suitable cover.

It is impossible to paint, in a few brief words, a picture of this exquisite species, neither can a full description be given in this column; it must suffice to say that they have passed into the possession of our esteemed members Mr. and Mrs. Miller. Mr. Miller kindly sends me the following brief notes:—

"They are really not in good enough plumage to state what their "true colours and markings are, and will not be so until they have moulted.

"In size and build they are about 4½ to 5 inches long, slight, and well "set up.

"The beak is short, with a wide base, having a few black hairs grow- "ing round it, and reminds one of a Barbet in this respect, as does also the "form of the head.

"The colour of the male is of a greenish blue, much the same shade "as the Blue Sugar-bird (*Dacnis cayana*), with a dark eye patch and dark "markings on the wings.

"The female is a paler shade, the breast feathers having a shimmer of "silver; the wing markings are similar to those of the male; but she has "no, or a very slight, dark eye patch. It is difficult to describe the colours "as they vary so according to the angle of light from which they are "viewed.

"They are very tame and were so from the first, taking food from the "hand, the hen will allow my wife to pick her up.

"We have been feeding them so far on Galloway's mixture 'Life,' "adding some live ants' eggs thereto, also a few small mealworms. As the "male bird is inclined to bully his mate we have caged them separately."

Flycatchers are never numerous on the market and are an acquisition of which any aviculturist may well be proud. W. T. P.

A PRIVATE CONSIGNMENT. To the great disappointment of our esteemed members, Messrs. Sutcliffe and Suggitt, their expenditure of time and money has not resulted in the arrival of anything actually new, neither have any Tanagers been landed. After the weeks of expectation this is disappointing indeed, but I expect it is largely due to the fact that ship's duties and bird collecting do not amalgamate, the former *must* be attended to, and consequently the series of birds got together is often disappointing, nevertheless some interesting birds are to hand. The list is as follows:—

14 Indigo Buntings (*Cyanospiza cyanea*) with one exception, all are in immature plumage.
2 Nonpareil Buntings (*Cyanospiza ciris*) ♂ and ♀.
2 Catbirds (*Galeoscoptes carolinensis*) ♂ and ♀.
1 *Yellow Hangnest (*Icterus xanthornis*) immature.
4 Parva Finches (*Spermophila parva*) 1 ♂ and 3 ♀.
1 Olive-backed Thrush (species ?) ♀

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*Vide plate and article, *Bird Notes*, Vol. VII., p. 53.

1 Mexican Rail.
1 Parrakeet, immature.
2 Cinnamon Teal.
1 Quail, not yet identified; this bird was so wild and its plumage so damaged during the voyage to this country that identification is not possible at present. It is a female and fully as large as the Californian Quail, to which species I am inclined to think it belongs.

Hearing that the above consignment was expected, I went up to Grimsby for the week end, spending two days with Mr. Suggitt, having a most interesting time, observing his and Mr. Sutcliffe's aviaries and birds, but these must form another story in a future issue. Unfortunately the consignment did not get in till late on Sunday night, so that my time for examination of the birds was but brief.

The Indigo Buntings—well-known, but very uncommon since the stoppage of the importation of birds from the United States—were a nice healthy looking lot, the conditions of light and the wildness of the birds, on being removed from their travelling cages, made a close examination almost impossible; all immature but one, but I am of the opinion that there are one or two of some other species among them; if this should prove correct, these should be very rare, as all certainly belong to the genus *Cyanospiza*. The Catbirds (a true pair) are very interesting. The Rev. C. D. Farrar has bred this species in captivity, and I shall hope to make further comments in our next issue. W. T. P.

Mr. HAMLYN among a recent consignment, has the following, of which I can only make bare mention: Orange-breasted Toucan, Black and Amber Troupial, Red Oven Bird, Red-crested Tyrant Flycatcher, Yellow-shouldered Meadow Starling, Yellow-breasted Marshbird, Red-bellied Thrush, Mexican Blue Thrush, Great Saltator, Rainbow Bunting, and others. Several of the above are rare, others uncommon, and all are interesting species, but further notes must be deferred till next issue.

W. T. P.

Post Mortem Reports.

(*Vide Rules*).

For replies by post, a fee of 2/6 *must be sent;* this regulation will not be broken under any condition.

Answered by post: O. Millsum and W. R. Temple.

BLACK-CHEEKED LOVEBIRD. (W. J. Lewis). Cause of death, pneumonia.

NAPOLEON BISHOP. (H. V. Johnson). The cause of death was an enlarged liver.

Hen YELLOW WAGTAIL. (H. V. Johnson). Cause of death, pneumonia.

(*Continued in Inset*).

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AUGUST, 1909.

BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

My Birds and their Doings.

NESTING AND OTHER NOTES FOR 1909.

By H. WILLFORD.

(*Continued from page* 123).

Since writing my last notes some little time has elapsed and many birdy events have occurred; the RUDDY-SHOULDERED COWBIRD hens have both built, laid again and sat steadily, each on three eggs for some time, but neither have succeeded in hatching any young, for which I am inclined to think the weather is largely responsible.

No more SILKY COWBIRD'S eggs have been hatched, and, as I have found occasionally eggs of small birds destroyed, I have now given up further hope of rearing either of these Cowbirds this year, so have entirely cleared the Wilderness Aviary (No. 5 on plan) preparatory to stocking with a few special pairs. I shall have to write this down as my Australian year, owing to the good fortune I have experienced with most of the little Grass-finches.

In aviary No. 6, DIAMOND SPARROWS and RUFOUS-TAILS have each a second brood nearly fledged, while from another nest of RUFOUS-TAILS four young have flown, and the old birds have laid again in the old nest; the LONGTAILS also have two more young on the wing.

PEACEFUL DOVES have laid, but have actually been driven from their nest by a hen PILEATED FINCH, who is now busy incubating their eggs, becoming so tame that she can be almost touched without taking alarm. In the same bush a pair of CRIMSON-WINGED FINCHES are sitting on three eggs, and not far distant in the long grass of a bank the CHESTNUT-BREASTED FINCHES are, I think, looking forward to the day when their three loud-voiced youngsters will leave the nest.

In aviary No. 7, three young PELZELN'S SAFFRON FINCHES have been out of the nest some weeks, and a second brood of four left the nest July 24th, these birds although of somewhat sombre appearance are beautiful little singers.

The only other birds that have succeeded here are a pair of AURITA DOVES, their first egg hatching on July 27th.

CINNAMON SPARROWS have gone as far as building, but no eggs have yet been laid.

It is with a sad heart I have to record the death of my most robust hen PAINTED FINCH; she laid her first egg on May 16th in a rush nest, and on the three succeeding days completed her clutch of four eggs, on which she took turns with the cock in incubating, but all to no purpose, as on inspection the eggs proved infertile, and so were removed. On the 29th of May the hen laid the first of four more eggs, but incubation again found the eggs clear, so I then removed the cock and replaced him with another that I was fortunate to procure through the kindness of one of our members. At first the hen rather resented the introduction of her new mate and took some little time to settle down, but by the 14th July she had apparently forgotten her lost love and was busily engaged with the cock constructing a nest. Their first attempt was rather a failure, it was only supported by a single twig and fortunately collapsed before any eggs were laid; the hen then resumed possession of her old nest in the basket and on the 18th laid her first egg, to be again followed by three others. All seemed to go on well, and on the 24th they were sitting tight, but on the 25th not having seen either cock or hen I had a peep inside the basket only to find the little hen dead on her eggs and the cock close by on a branch bemoaning her loss.

This is one of my bitterest disappointments as there is no bird I would sooner have bred than the little PAINTED FINCH; this last clutch of eggs proved fertile.

MASKED GRASSFINCHES hatched out four young on the 22nd of July, in a nest built at the root of a large thistle, these appear to be doing well in spite of the heavy rain which has predominated of late. In the same aviary one pair of CORDON BLEUS have reared a brood and another pair are incubating;

Common SAFFRON FINCHES are sitting, and a pair of SENEGAL DOVES have reared four young, and are now incubating their third clutch of eggs.

In the next aviary a pair of RINGED FINCHES are incubating five eggs in a rush basket.

One pair of CUBAN FINCHES built in a large laurel, laying four eggs, white spotted with light brown, and on the top of their nest a pair of Diamond Doves laid and reared one young without appearing to disturb the occupants of the ground floor, but, like so many others this season, all the Cuban's eggs were infertile. They built a second nest in a bush and the hen is now incubating another clutch of four eggs; they are, I think, quite the most quarrelsome of any of the small birds, and, a pair of DUSKY FINCHES got so persecuted by the cock Cuba that the former have had to be removed.

A hen CUBA mated to a cock OLIVE FINCH has laid, but again the eggs proved infertile.

Two pairs of BLACK-CHEEKED LOVEBIRDS went to nest early in the year, in large cages in the birdroom and were seldom seen for the best part of six weeks. I then thought it advisable to at last inspect the interior of their nests, which consisted solely of spray millet stalks, carried into an apple log; on opening the logs they were both found to contain eggs, with dead chicks in the shell about just due to hatch, and also a second clutch of eggs just laid. Both pairs were then turned out of doors and are now busy incubating.

(To be continued).

The Birds of Gambia.

By E. HOPKINSON, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

(Continued from page 127).

MOTACILLIDÆ.

Motacilla alba. The WHITE WAGTAIL.

Range. Europe and Asia; Africa as far as the Equator from October to May. (*Sh.*)

This is the common black and white Wagtail of the Gambia. They are very numerous in Bathurst from October to the end of April, and are to be frequently met with further inland during these months, though never in such large numbers as *M. flava*. An occasional pair is often seen after the last date, but they do not breed here. Joloff name, Ntchâbet.

M. melanope. GREY WAGTAIL.

Range. Europe. Migrates to N. Africa; the most southern known range on the west is the Gambia, where Rendall records it as a rare visitant. (*Sh.*)

This is the long-tailed, yellow-bodied Wagtail with a grey head and white eyebrow. I think I once saw (March 1907) a single example of the species in Bathurst.

M. campestris. YELLOW WAGTAIL.

The common summer Yellow Wagtail of England.

Range. Europe and the whole of Africa. (*Sh.*) Occasionally found in the Gambia. (*Rendall.*)

In March 1906, there were a few particularly bright yellow birds among the flocks of *M. flava* in Bathurst, which I thought were *M. campestris*, but I cannot be quite sure of this.

M. flava. BLUE-HEADED YELLOW WAGTAIL.

Range. Europe and Asia; Africa in Winter. (*Sh.*)

This is by far our commonest Wagtail. They arrive in the country about October 1st (the earliest date on which I have noted the presence) and remained in flocks till the end of March, after which, till May when they disappear; they are generally found in pairs only. During the winter in Bathurst they on many days literally swarm on the sands and rough grassland behind them along the shore, while up-country they haunt the old cornfields and clearings, especially those places where the cattle are tied up at night, where flies and other insects are naturally particularly abundant.

PARIDÆ.

Parus leucomelas. BLACK TIT.

Range. North Tropical Africa from 16 N. Lat. to Angola, with a sub-species, *P. guineensis*, a small race confined to Senegambia. (*Sh.*)

This, the only Tit found in Gambia, is a black bird a little smaller than the European Great Tit, with white wing patches which are very conspicuous when the bird flies. It is not common, but is occasionally met with in pairs in or near thickish bush.

Parisoma plumbeum. PLUMBEOUS HILL-TIT.

Range. Southward from Gambia to Natal. (*Sh.*)

A small bird (5½ inches in length) with grey upper surface, whitish belly and a black and white tail, which I do not know and therefore do not think I have ever seen here.

ZOSTEROPIDÆ.

Zosterops senegalensis. SENEGAL WHITE EYE.

Range. Senegambia and Liberia and across the continent between 17 N. Lat. and 7 S. Lat. (*Sh*).

Of this family the above is the only species found in the Gambia, where however it is distinctly rare. I have only seen them about three times, and then they have been in small parties feeding with other birds on ripe Soto trees, where their actions reminded me forcibly of the Goldcrests, as like them they are particularly fond of hanging and hopping upside down below the twigs, which they are searching for insects among the clusters of the small green fruits of the tree.

NECTARINIIDÆ.

Sunbirds are in many places numerous, and from the lovely metallic plumage of many of them, very noticeable, especially so in the gardens at Bathurst, where they flit from shrub to shrub or climb like Tits about the branches, calling to each other continually with short sweet chirps. Four species at least are quite common here, but the others are much rarer, and many of these I know only from descriptions, though I have doubtless seen some of them without recognising them. Joloff names for all the Sunbirds are Maramluslus, Temtem, Temteman, Wèf.

Hedydipna platura. YELLOW-BREASTED LONGTAILED SUNBIRD.

Range. West Coast from Senegal to Sierra Leone. (*Sh*).

In this species the male is a metallic green bird with a bright yellow breast. In the adult the two central tail feathers are elongated and expanded at their tips, but these are either lost every year, or do not reach full length in the first year, as one often sees the birds with these feathers either absent or only just projecting beyond the rest of the tail. In December, 1904, I have a note, "Many have lost their long tails," and again in November, 1905, which would be just after the end of the breeding season, another. "McCarthy Island: many have no long tails now, or only very short ones." The female, as in most species of Sunbird, is a plain coloured bird, a dull brown and white with a faint tinge of yellow below. In Gambia I have never seen this bird in Bathurst, but at McCarthy Island and at other places up the river it is quite common.

(To be continued).

Minivets.

By D. Dewar, I.C.S., F.Z.S.

Were a beauty competition of the birds of India held I am sure that the Minivets would be well in the running for the first prize. To say this is to bestow high praise, for India teems with beautiful birds. All the colours of the rainbow appear in the bird population of that naturalist's El Dorado. The greens are represented by the Paroquets, the Chloropses, the Fruit

Pigeons, the Bee-eaters, and the Barbets; golden yellow by the Orioles, the Ioras, and one of the Grosbeaks; blues by the Kingfishers, the Roller, the purple Porphyrio, and some Flycatchers; metallic hues by the Sunbirds, the Pheasants and the Peafowl. The Minivets sport the reds and the yellows. The cocks of the various species of *Pericrocotus* display red, each his own especial shade of that colour. Bright scarlet is most in favour, but two species wear crimson, others exhibit deep rose colour, flaming red and orange red respectively. The hens are similarly a study in the various hues of yellow.

But I am not going to write a monograph on these airy-fairy little birds. I propose to deal with one species—THE ORANGE MINIVET (*Pericrocotus flammeus*)—of which one of our members, Mr. O. Millsum, is the fortunate possessor of a specimen. This species is found in the beautifully wooded Nilgiri Hills and in the luxuriant forests that clothe the hills of Travancore. I made the acquaintance of this species some five years ago when spending a month's leave at Coonoor, near Ootacamund.

The ORANGE MINIVET is a bird about the size of a Sparrow, but much more elegantly proportioned and with a considerably longer tail. The head and back of the cock are black. The wings are black and flame-coloured red, the red being so arranged as to form a band along the wing during flight. The tail feathers are all red save the two median ones which are black. During flight the brilliant red seems to crowd out the black, so that a number of cocks as they flit about amid the foliage look, as Major Roden says, like sparks driven before the wind. In the hen the flaming red colour is replaced by bright yellow. It is thus evident that "orange" is not the correct adjective to apply to this bird. I think that a literal translation of its Latin name—the Flame-Coloured Minivet—would be more appropriate.

The cocks and hens seem to vie with one another as to which shall look the most brilliant; so that in this species, at any rate, the sexual dimorphism cannot have any connection with the supposed necessity to the hen of a greater degree of protective colouration. In the Minivets red seems to be a masculine attribute and yellow a feminine one. As Mr. Finn and I have suggested in *The Making of Species*, we must look to the principle of the correlation of organs for the explanation of many, if not all, instances of sexual differences in colouring.

The beauty of the Minivet is not merely that of colour. The elegance of its slender, well-proportioned form rivals that of the Wagtail.

Minivets are veritable Wandering Jews. They seem never to remain for many hours in any one locality, except when nesting. They go about in little flocks, which are usually composed of both cocks and hens, sometimes, however, of one or other sex only. They are here to-day and gone to-morrow, so that one never knows when one is going to meet them. During a walk in a Nilgiri wood one always has the pleasure of looking out for these Cardinal Birds as they are sometimes called. The little companies pass from tree to tree, flitting among the leaves, seeking for insects, now on the topmost branches where the dainty forms of the birds stand out sharp and clear against the azure sky,—the sky is usually azure in "The Gorgeous East"—now lost to view amid the denser foliage. Few are the lurking insects that escape the sharp eye of the Minivet. Even an insect on part of the tree where a bird cannot obtain a foothold does not escape, for the Minivet flies up to it, and seizes it while hovering in the air on vibrating wings. Sometimes, in order to reach a tiny victim hidden away on the underside of a leaf, the Minivet will hang by its feet, like a Titmouse, from the slender branch that bears the leaf. At times the Minivet will indulge in a little zig-zag flight among the green branches, and it is on such occasions that the cock utters his feeble, but pleasing little warble.

The nest of a pair of Minivets is a work of art. It is a neat little cup, about three inches in diameter, composed of small twigs and grasses, and covered outside with moss and cobwebs, so that in colour and general appearance the exterior is exactly like the bark of a tree.

The little cup is often placed on a bough; if this happens to be a thick one the nest is totally invisible to any person looking into the tree in which it is placed. If the branch happens to be a thin one, the nest looks from below like a knot or swelling in the branch. Thus, unless one actually sees the Minivet sitting, or climbs the tree, it is practically impossible to locate their nest. It is not difficult to discover the tree in which it is situated because the parent birds make a great commotion at the approach of human beings.

I have not seen the eggs of this species, but Oates states that they are pale sea-green marked with pale yellowish brown.

* * *

In response to my request Mr. Millsum sends the following:—

"Our worthy Editor requests me to send him a few notes on one of my latest acquisitions—the Indian Flycatcher. I can only say the notes will be few, I have not had the bird a sufficient length of time to watch its mannerisms or study its habits. At present I cannot definitely give its species*; at first it was supposed to be *P. flammeus*, but in Gould's *Century of Birds* another bird, agreeing very closely with *P. flammeus*, is shown *P. brevirostris*, which it undoubtedly is if its tail grows long. At present its tail is broken and so I await results. It is in any case a very rare specimen and one of which I am proud. When I received it the wing flights were rough, also the tail, and it was not at all bright or active in its manner. Great care has met with its due reward, for it is to-day cheery and bright, a beautiful bloom is already showing on its plumage, and it is one of the most charming of my pets. He is the first to call me with his sweet call note when he hears my footsteps outside the birdroom; and when I am about the house, if I imitate his call sufficiently loud for him to hear he never fails to reply. Altogether he is a most charming little chap in his suit of orange-red and blue-black.

His sole diet is my own soft food mixture and a few insects.

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* Just on going to press we are informed that it is *P. brevirostris*.

An Uncommon Acquisition.

THE PECTORAL TANAGER.

(*Euphonia pectoralis*).

By T. H. HADLEY.

Seeing an advertisement of this bird, and not knowing the variety I obtained a pair upon approval, and was so taken with the wonderful condition of the plumage of the cock bird and his confiding ways that I immediately decided to purchase.

A FORTUNATE RECAPTURE: Within ten minutes of arrival the cock bird escaped, and darted through an open door. Not being blessed with a garden I was in fear that, as is usual with with my escapes, he would at once disappear; but when I went outside I found him clinging to a creeper and in no way alarmed; he allowed me to walk to within a foot of him before I discovered him, and was perfectly unconcerned.

I at once took out the hen bird in a cage, and an additional cage with a banana inside. He flitted continually from place to place, at times getting out of sight, but always returning either to the creeper or aviary; eventually he went into the cage and was recaptured.

Immediately the cage door is opened he comes down, and is with difficulty kept inside; bathes continually, hence no doubt his wonderful condition. He is quite fearless, and constantly sings a very scrappy song, ending with one or two snaps of the beak.

In size, he is rather larger than the Violet Tanager, and decidedly more slimly built; shape somewhat curved. Bill black, with slate-coloured base; legs and feet black. Plumage, absolutely sleek and glossy throughout. Head, rich dark navy blue; back and upper parts dark greenish blue; breast, navy blue, sides of breast rich saffron yellow. Abdomen and under tail-coverts rich copper beech, or chestnut, shade. Primaries black, dark bluish edges. Secondaries blue-black, edged with olive. Tail blue-black, the feathers being decidedly soft and pointed. The hen is very similarly coloured to the hen Violet, the under parts being rather more yellow.

Book Notices and Reviews.

THE MAKING OF SPECIES. By D. DEWAR and F. FINN.

London: JOHN LANE. 7/6 net.

In our last issue a brief reference was made to the remarkable (for it is this) book our esteemed members have produced. The views presented are certainly original, and are supported by an array of facts amply proving the authors to be thorough and capable investigators, the said views and facts being presented with a fearlessness very nearly bordering on audacity.

Their two-fold purpose in producing this book is clearly stated in the preface:

"In the first place we have attempted to place before the general public "in simple language a true statement of the present position of biological "science. In the second place we have endeavoured to furnish scientific "men of the day with food for reflection."

This purpose they have certainly achieved, and also have declared in no faltering manner their opinion of the status of present day biology, as the following quotations amply show:—

"We fear this book will come as a rude shock to many scientific men. " . . . . We are endeavouring to save biology in England from com-"mitting suicide, to save it from the hands of those into which it has "fallen. . . . . it is not Darwinism we are attacking, but that which "is erroneously called Neo-Darwinism. Neo-Darwinism is a pathological "growth on Darwinism, which, we fear can be removed only by a surgical "operation."

We are glad to note, that though apologetic for the frequency of their quotations from popular writings, they pertinently remark "*that a popular work is not necessarily inaccurate in its information*" [the italics are ours.—ED.]

The following glossary of chapters will indicate the lines of this practical and interesting work.

I. Rise and subsequent development of the Theory of Natural Selection.
II. Some of the more important objections to it. III. Variation.
IV. Hybridism. V. Inheritance. VI. Colouration of Organisms.
VII. Sexual Dimorphism. VIII. The Factors of Evolution.

The space at our disposal does not permit of anything like as thorough a review as the book deserves, but we must, we fear somewhat disjointedly, briefly indicate some of the conclusions reached.

Re Natural Selection.—After an exhaustive consideration of objections and facts, the conclusion is reached that few, if any, organisms exist, which do not possess some feature, which this theory utterly fails to explain. They certainly clearly indicate their own leanings, viz., that all species throw off very distinctive variations at greater or less periods, and that upon these variations natural selection acts.

Hybridisation and the fertility of hybrids.—Here of course at present only provisional conclusions can be drawn, yet this chapter is one of the most interesting of the whole book.

When considering the colouration of organisms Messrs. Dewar and Finn are very definite, almost aggressive *(in the writer's opinion, rightly so)* as to the superiority of the theories or conclusions drawn from Field and Forest observations, over the emanations from study and museum. It certainly must be obvious that the dead body can reveal little beyond osteological and general anatomical data, and that other deductions drawn therefrom are limited indeed as factors of biological research.

Again I must express the regret that our space does not permit of the review we fain would give, but we must quote the pertinent (for aviculturists) paragraphs with which they conclude their book:

> "The real makers of species are the inherent properties of protoplasm "and the laws of variation and heredity. These determine the nature of "the organism; natural selection and the like factors merely decide for "each particular organism whether it shall survive and give rise to a "species.
>
> "The way in which Natural Selection does its work is comparatively "easy to understand. But this is only the fringe of the territory which "we call evolution. We seem to be tolerably near a solution of the "problem of the causes of the *survival* of any particular imitation. This, "however is merely a side issue. The real problem is the causes of "variations and mutations, or, in other words, how species *originate.* At "present our knowledge of the causes of variation and mutation is prac-"tically *nil.* We do not even know along what particular lines mutations "follow. We have yet to discover whether one mutation invariably leads "to another along the same lines—in other words, whether mutating "organisms behave as though they had behind them a force acting in a "definite direction. The solution of these problems seems afar off. The "hope of solving them lies, not in the speculations in which biologists of "to-day are so fond of indulging, but in observation and experiment, "especially the last.

"*The future of biology is largely in the hands of the practical breeder.*" [The italics are ours.—ED.]

There will be a large divergence of opinion on the conclusions reached, many of which are however supported by field notes (these form one of the most valuable features of the work), much avicultural data also apparently tends in the same direction, and we opine that the future will be more fruitful in this direction than in the past.

Though in accord with much that it expresses we consider the preface needlessly irritating in its phraseology and calculated to hinder with some an unprejudiced reading of the book.

We strongly urge our members to procure this intensely interesting book and venture to prophecy that it will set its thoughtful readers observing and experimenting along new lines, in such case much interesting data should result.

BRITISH BIRDS: August issue is to hand, and contains a truly photographic supplement of photos by Miss E. L. Turner, all of which were taken in a very brief period. They are as follows:—

III. Water Rail: Running to the Nest.
IV. ,, ,, Chipping the Shell to assist the chick.
V. ,, ,, Brooding.
VI. ,, ,, Removing first chick.
VII. ,, ,, Removing second chick.
VIII. ,, ,, Removing third chick, still in the shell.
IX. ,, ,, Removing fourth chick in the shell.
X. ,, ,, Removing addled egg.

These birds were under constant observation, and in spite of every precaution had been much disturbed, as the following quotation shows:—

> "As a rule the Water-Rail is one of the most wary of sitters—more keenly "alert and sensitive to the slighest sound than any bird I know; but on "this occasion she more than once allowed me to change my plate without disturbing herself in the slightest. The nervous anxiety *she* did "display was purely maternal; wrapt in her own meditation, she seemed "lost to outside influences. . . ."
>
> "I asked Vincent (the keeper) to examine the eggs and report progress. Two of the young were out, and he removed the broken shells. "Then the excitement began. The female returned, stood on tip-toe, "peeped into the nest, and quick as thought seized one youngster by the

"neck and carried him off. So rapid and unexpected was this manœuvre "that I had barely time to secure my picture (Plate VI.), but the attitude "in which she is caught shows to advantage the real elegance of the "Water-Rail, for on the nest she fluffs herself out and looks twice her "natural size, whereas she is really slim and dainty. No sooner had I "changed my plate than she was back again, and this time seized the "second unfortunate and bedraggled-looking chick by the head, and "whisked him off (Plate VII.). She then returned for the third, not yet "out of the shell, and seizing him by the shoulder removed him shell "and all (Plate VIII.), and the fourth also in like manner (Plate IX.). "There remained only one addled egg, but though this formed a very "difficult task, after several unsuccessful efforts she succeeded in getting "a firm grasp of it (Plate X.), and disappeared. All these five photographs "were taken in less than ten minutes.

"After this the bird returned twice and just peeped into the nest, "and, thus apparently satisfied as to its emptiness, we saw her no more.

"We diligently searched the reeds for the missing birds, but found "only the addled egg, some eight feet away, and one half-fledged chick, "that must have been in the water many hours, evidently one of those "removed from the nest on the 27th. We replaced the egg, covered up "the nest and went away, hoping that, like the Great Crested Grebe and "Coot, the Water-Rail would bring back her young to the old home for a "day or two; but on the 29th the nest was wet and cold, evidently there "had been no return; and though we made a long search in its vicinity, "no trace of the birds, old or young, could be found.

"I can give no explanation of the cause of this behaviour on the part "of my Water-Rail, and do not know whether it is ordinary or extra-"ordinary; the fact that two young ones disappeared before the 28th "seems to show that these birds are in the habit of removing their newly-"hatched or partly-fledged young. . . . Perhaps another season, by "carefully watching and not attempting to photograph the Water-Rail, "some further light may be thrown upon this very interesting point."

We do not know of any such habit having been previously noted. The photos are certainly unique.

There is also an intensely interesting paper by F. J. Stubbs on "Red Grouse, Heather and Crowberry," which is worth careful reading and further observation on same lines, as it may probably be a step toward the elucidation of the cause of Grouse Disease.

Other interesting Notes and Records complete one of the most important numbers yet issued of this interesting and reliable Magazine.

British Birds: Witherby & Co. Monthly, 1/- net.

A LIST OF THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS OF THE WORLD. By Capt. S. Flower. This List appeared first in the *Zoologist* for May, 1909. It is very comprehensive, interesting, practical, and will undoubtedly be much used for reference. In most instances the name of the Gardens, management and Superintendent are given. It is illustrated with two good photos of views in the Giza Zoological Gardens, of which the author (our esteemed member) is Director.

Editorial.

THE NESTING OF GREY-WINGED OUZELS: At the third attempt my pair of this species has successfully reared two strong young birds, which as I write this are enjoying their initial flights. I am of the opinion that this is the first time they have been successfully reared in captivity, though probably Mr. H. D. Astley may have scored over me by a day or two. The Zoo, Mr. H. D. Astley and myself all procured pairs from Capt. G. A. Perreau last summer, all three pairs have made several abortive attempts this season, but as regards actual success I think I am ahead of the Zoo, but do not know at time of writing how Mr Astley has fared with the species. I shall hope to give a full account in next issue.*

NESTING NOTES: Better results are coming in from members at present, though disappointments are still very numerous, owing to the inclement weather and heavy rains. Mr. W. E. Teschemaker has successfully reared Blue Grosbeaks, Rufous-backed Mannikins, Jerdon's Accentors and Blackcaps, all, I believe, for the first time in this country; also the Sulphury Seedeater, and has young broods of Grey-headed Sparrows and Giant Whydahs.

Mr. R. Suggitt has also bred the Blackcaps, two strong young birds being on the wing about a fortnight later than Mr. Teschemaker's. These were reared entirely on live gentles, but since they have been on the wing have been fed on fruit also.

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* Just on going to press we learn that the Zoo has also bred this species, two young left the nest on August the 4th, two days later than my pair of fledgelings. Mr. Astley has had no success with his pair, which nested and laid but did not hatch out.

Mr. Mathias is also getting fair results; he sends me the following characteristic post card (I wish many more members would do likewise).

"30/7/09. Latest Bulletin!
"White Java Sparrow.. 7 eggs = 7 Birds (just hatched).
"Canaries .. .. 4 " = 4 " (2 dead).
"Diamond Doves .. 2 " = Nil (dead in shell).
"Ruficaudas .. .. Young birds in nest.
"Long-tail Grassfinches Sitting.
"Blue-wing Lovebirds.. 4 eggs = 1 young (out to-day)!
"Black-cheek Lovebirds (No. 1 pair) 4 eggs Sitting (already reared one brood).
" " " (No. 2 pair) ? " 2 young birds fully reared (probably more).
" " " (No. 3 pair) No present signs of nesting."

So far Mr. Mathias' Stanley and Pennant Parrakeets have not nested, though the latter are showing indications of doing so; he has young Budgerigars galore—his success with the Passerine Parrakeets (Blue-wing Lovebirds) is distinctly uncommon.

Miss M. E. Baker writes me that her young Malabar Mynahs are now quite independent of their parents; it will be remembered that in 1907 Miss Baker came just short of success with the same pair of birds, though the Zoo have bred this species more than once and have young in one of the aviaries at the present time, their nesting in captivity is very uncommon.

Mr. Suggitt also has a pair of Indigo Buntings (*C. cyanea*) busily incubating, one of the pairs quite recently imported. The species has been bred before in this country.

Mr. E. J. Brook has a young Black Lory (*C. ater*), which is doing well and promises to be fully reared; if so this will be the first record not merely of this species, but of a true Lory having been reared in captivity. We certainly hope it will be fully reared and tender Mr. Brook our warmest anticipatory congratulations.

All the above members are promising fuller notes, for a near issue, which should prove of great interest.

THE PRESERVATION OF RARE SPECIES OF BIRDS: Our esteemed member, Mr. W. J. Lewis, sends me the following cutting, which I am sure will meet with the approval of all our members.

"The Australian Government has informed Mr James Buckland that a Customs proclamation has been issued prohibiting the importation into the Commonwealth from the territory of Papua of Birds of Paradise, Goura Pigeons and Ospreys, 'or of the skins, feathers, or plumage of any such bird.' Importation is allowed when the written consent of a principal Customs officer of Papua has been obtained, but consent is only given when the birds or plumage are for a museum or a purely scientific purpose."

MEXICAN QUAIL *(Philortyx fasciatus)*: A few of this species have recently been on the market; it is very uncommon and not often to be obtained. It is an interesting species, somewhat resembling the Californian Quail. The upper surface is olive-brown, washed with rufous on the crown and greyish on the neck and mantle; the lower back, wings and tail are barred and blotched with black and buff; the crest is blackish and tipped with red; the throat and underparts are white, spotted and barred with black on the chest, and the feathers of the sides and flanks have rusty margins. It is an inhabitant of South Mexico. A pair of this fine species have come into the possession of our esteemed member Mr. W. J. Lewis.

ZOO NOTES: A. Pam, Esq., who during the past two years has donated so many birds to the Society, including many rare species, has still further enriched their collection with the following among others:—

2 pairs Hooded Siskins.
3 Pileated Finches.
2 Talpacoti Doves.
2 Brazilian Hangnests.
*1 Grey-backed Ouzel.
1 Black-faced Tanager.
*3 Flycatchers.
2 Shining Tanagers.
3 Blue-winged Tanagers.
1 All-green Tanager.
1 Palm Tanager.
1 Blue Tanager.
1 Black-headed Sugar Bird ♂
2 pairs Yellow-winged Sugar Birds.

The following species have either hatched or reared young:—

1 Angolan Seed-eater.
1 St. Helena Seed-eater.
2 Long-tailed Grass Finches.
6 Australian Rails.
2 Malabar Mynahs.
1 Indian Mynah (just left nest).
2 Grey-winged Ouzels (just left nest)

NESTING OF MAGPIE TANAGER: In the aviaries of Mr. H. D. Astley a pair of this species have nested and hatched out one young bird, but, unfortunately, when it was four days old it disappeared from the nest. This is the first occasion on which this species have hatched out in this country.

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*New to collection.

AN UNIQUE CONSIGNMENT: Just on going to press we learn that Mr. E. J. Brook has received the following, which have been collected and brought over by our esteemed member, Mr. W. Goodfellow. Mr. Brook informs me that they are all in excellent condition:

1 pair Bluebirds of *P.* (*rudolphi.*)
3 ♂ 2 ♀ *Epimarcus inryert.*
3 ♂ 4 ♀ *Astrarchia stephaniæ.*
1 ♂ Greater Bird of Paradise.
2 pairs Superb Bird of Paradise.
1 ♂ Hunstein's Bird of Paradise.
1 *Loria mariae,* young.
1 pair *Amblyornis inornata.*
2 ♂ 1 ♀ *A. subularis.*
1 Young Mountain Cassowary.
3 Victoria Lories, (*Oreopsittacus grandis*)
1 pair Wilhelminas Lory.
4 Stella Lories. 3 Fair Lorikeets.
1 Forsten's Lorikeet.
3 curious Honey Suckers.
3 *Palæornis longicauda.*

We are unfortunately compelled to leave all comment till next issue, but we congratulate Mr. Brook on the acquisition of so gorgeous and rare a series, most especially on the pair of Blue Birds of Paradise, which, we trust will live long in his aviaries.

THE FRIAR BIRD'S ESCAPADE: My cock Silvery-crowned Friar Bird escaped from the net to-day (August 8th) while I was transferring it from in- to out-door quarters. It at once flew away to some distance and I gave it up for lost. It was out of sight for longish periods, though its weird and strange cries sounding most un-English, were frequently repeated with about 10 to 15 minutes silent intervals. I presume it must have attracted a great deal of attention and no little wonder as to what it could be. Fortunately for me, after six hours of liberty, it returned and went into my greenhouse-birdroom, flew into its enclosure which I had left open, quietly settling on a perch and was thus recaptured without difficulty. Though the period of its liberty was an anxious one for me; this was softened in a measure by the half-hour intervals of observation I got of it, disporting itself among the trees of my neighbours' gardens. This species, though plainly claid is very handsome and striking even in a small flight; but seeing it thus disporting itself at large among the *tops* of my neighbours' fruit trees, was the sight of a lifetime*, and will be green in my memory for many a long day; it certainly was some recompense for the anxiety I endured while it was at large—plain! its beauty was simply marvellous, and though a large bird, its deportment was tit-like; I cannot however enlarge upon this owing to lack of space, but will return to it in some future issue.

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* It was a bit of Australian wild life enacted in a London suburb.

SHINING FLYCATCHER (*Phaenopepla nitens*) : This was very briefly noted in our last issue, but Mr. Goodchild's drawing was not then made, though ordered. It is difficult to state what is the characteristic pose for this restless and vigilant species; whatever position it is viewed in, it has a handsome and striking appearance. This is very apparent even in the moderate sized cage it occupies at the Zoo, but it would show to far greater advantage in one three times the size, as it is even more beautiful on the wing than when in partial repose as figured; even if it were sombre in plumage, its elegant and slender shape, agility and alertness would at once redeem it from plainness, and, if it only came over in sufficient numbers, would cause it to be much sought after. The male is shining black: the richness of its sheen or lustre cannot be described, and for once a popular name is appropriate, for "shining" aptly describes the bird; beautiful as it is in the figure herewith, words cannot paint its charm when hovering in the cage, and the white inner webs of the primaries are so strikingly revealed; the eye is red; bill and feet glossy black. The female is brown, with the white areas on primaries much reduced.

The nest is composed of fibre, fine twigs and lined with plant down, shaped like a saucer and of fragile build. The eggs are pale greenish, thickly speckled with blackish-brown. The clutch is very variable, five being the maximum. It ranges from the Central United States to Mexico.

BRITISH BIRDS.

The Bullfinch.

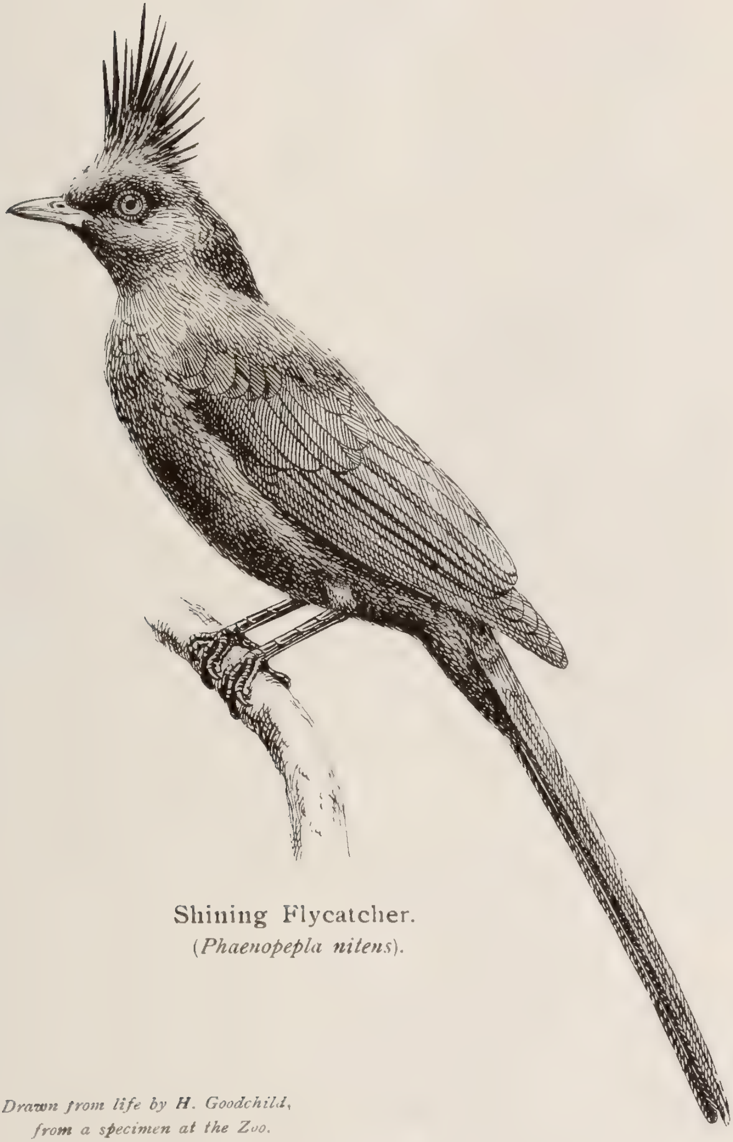
(*Pyrrhula europœa*).

By WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S.

(*Concluded from page* 109).

WILD LIFE: This portion of my task need not be a lengthy one, as only the briefest allusion, if any, will be made to its European distribution; it is only as a British species that it enters into these notes.

To every nature-lover (*not a fruit grower*) this beautiful species is dear. How it brightens the hedgerows of wooded



Shining Flycatcher.
(*Phaenopepla nitens*).

Drawn from life by H. Goodchild,
from a specimen at the Zoo.

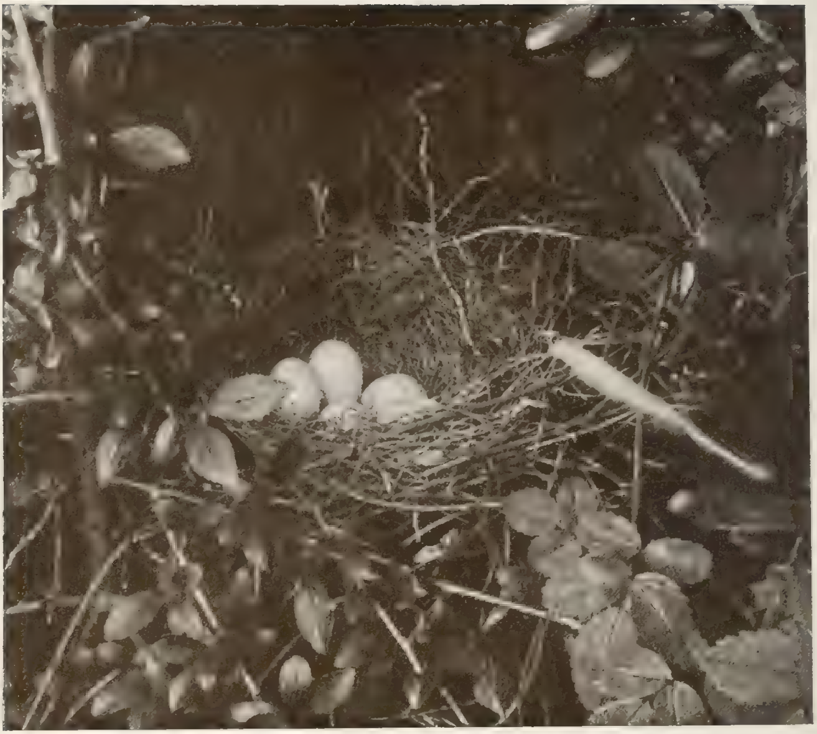


Photo by W. E. Teschemaker, B.A.

Nest and Eggs of Bullfinch.
Pyrrhula europæa.

districts of almost every county of dear old England, every field naturalist knows; as I pen these notes, memories of encounters with this, one of the most brilliant of our native avifauna, rise before me in rapid succession, till in imagination I see again the breeze stirred foliage light up again and again, with the brilliant salmon-red of Mr. Bullfinch; more particularly do I remember one August ramble, about four years ago, between Worthing and Littlehampton, when every fifty yards or so the dark green foliage was enlivened with groups of this lovely species; far more lovely amid such a setting than when seen in captivity.

I am not a fruit grower, but I know something of the damage Mr. Bullfinch can do in a fruit-growing district; but, providing he is not too numerous, is he not entitled to levy reasonable toll for benefit conferred in the consumption of innumerable larvæ and insects, whose presence unchecked would have meant far greater havoc than Mr. Bullfinch is responsible for? Too well I know this in my London-back-garden, where the absence of bird life when needed has cost me several fine trees, and in one case the entire destruction of a fine Victoria plum, whose previous annual yield of fine fruit is now much missed. However, space is too precious to linger on this subject, especially as it has already been worn threadbare in other journals.

FOOD: This consists of buds, maggots of various kinds, for which many buds are destroyed and only the parasite eaten; seeds, such as fir, ash, pine, beech, linseed, rape, nettle, grass, dock, plaintain, shepherd's purse, etc. The young are reared partly on insects and their larvæ and also on seeds first softened in the crop of the parent bird. In the autumn they may be seen feeding on various berries, such as privet, rowan, dog-rose, hawthorn, etc.

BREEDING: They have two and sometimes three nests each season, which are found according to locality in orchard trees, fir, beech, white- and black-thorn, etc. The nest is composed of twigs, fine root fibres and is lined with wool, feathers, moss, horse hair, etc.; no description is needed, as our esteemed member has taken several photos this season, one of which illustrates these notes. The clutches varies, four or five being the usual number, the eggs are clear greenish-blue, streaked and speckled with dark reddish- and purplish-brown. Incubation lasts from 14 to 15 days. In captivity it has varied with me according to the weather, some clutches being hatched in 13 days, others have taken the full 15. The female alone performs the duties of incubation, but the male is indefatigable in feeding and looking after his offspring.

VARIATIONS: These are fairly numerous, pied specimens being not uncommon; albinos less so, but our esteemed member, Mr. H. Wormald has a fine specimen, pure white, excepted the breast which is pale salmon-red. Entirely black specimens are not uncommon in captivity, often this is brought about it is said by the bird's diet, too much hemp seed having a tendency to produce this abnormality. The late Howard Saunders records an instance in his Manual as follows:—"An entirely black nestling, found with three other young birds of the ordinary colour, attained after moulting the plumage of the female."

In conclusion I may say that, in captivity, the Bullfinch has been crossed with the Goldfinch, Linnet, Greenfinch, Canary, and possibly with other finches. I do not feel that any apology is needed for occupying space with these notes of such a well known and popular a species.

* * *

The Great Grey Shrike in Captivity.

(*Lánius excúbitor*).

By F. HOWE.

Until the last few years this species was rarely kept in captivity, but during the last two or three seasons it has been frequently seen on the show bench and has met with varying success, also attracting much notice from visitors. From my experience with the Great Grey Shrike it is more hardy than its Red-backed relative, and, being larger and of a more striking appearance, it is better suited for and more sought after by the exhibitor.

The bird herein described was caught in November, 1905, and was a most beautiful specimen; the distribution and harmony of the delicate greys, blacks and white, being a rare feast for the artistic eye. Its beauty is more striking still when the tail is spread. It is of a bold and powerful appearance, with a formidable looking beak, the upper mandible of which is hooked and well adapted to get a firm grip of its prey and to tear the skin and flesh. It is a fine active bird, continually hopping and jumping about its cage, dropping, spreading and raising its tail and at the same time jerking its body up and down.

This fine species is not a resident with us, but is a fairly regular visitor to this country from the Continent in autumn and winter ; only occasionally has it been observed here in spring and summer, and there is no evidence that it has ever bred in this country.

For a time I kept it in a large cage, afterwards it enjoyed the range of a large flight aviary, in which were fixed several rather thick perches ; across two of these perches cross-pieces with projecting nails were so fixed that the bird might impale its food. In the cage, which contained no projecting nails or other sharp points, it was by no means easy for it to rend its prey, though it accomplished this by getting a firm grip and then violently shaking the bird or mouse and getting small pieces thus ; it also forced its prey between the wires of the cage where it held for a time and thus by repeating the operation again and again it was enabled to satisfy its hunger. After it had been in the aviary about half an hour it was given a freshly-killed Greenfinch ; out of sight through an observation hole I closely watched it. It immediately pounced on the Greenfinch, gripping it by the head and flew on to the end perch ; from there it flew on to one of the cross perches near one of the nails above mentioned and tried to impale the bird thereon. After several attempts it got the neck on the point of the nail, with the body of the bird hanging on the other side, and pulled the head downwards ; by doing so the nail was forced through the neck of the bird, and was ready for the Shrike to devour. It first attacked the head of the bird, tearing away some of the feathers, and gulping down the skin, flesh, and feathers together. After it had cleared the feathers and skin away from the skull, the Shrike broke it with a few blows of its strong beak, and ate the brains. When it had devoured the flesh and skin from around the nail on which the dead bird had been fixed, the rest of the body fell to the ground. Down flew the Shrike, and seized the bird by the part of neck still left, flew back to the nail, held the *body* over it, and when the body rested on the point pulled the bird downwards and forced the nail right through the body, after which it again had a feed, and then left it. Most truly does the Shrike deserve the name of the "Butcher-bird." It made me shudder to see the way in which it went to work, especially when it impaled its victim.

I had watched the Shrike many times in the hope of seeing it throw up a pellet, and though I had spent many hours at different times for the purpose, I could not see what I anxiously watched for. But one day, about three hours after it had had a Greenfinch given to it, I hid myself at the side and watched it. It had eaten part of the bird, the rest was fixed on one of the nails ready to be devoured by the Shrike when again hungry. (This points to their impaling their prey for the purpose of making a larder, as well as a means for more securely holding its food when having a meal. I found that the Shrike often fixed food that was large enough on the nail until it was again hungry.) After watching for about ten minutes, it opened its mouth (which has a very wide gape) as if to yawn, stretched out its neck, and brought up a pellet, which it threw out by a vigorous shake of its head. The pellet was thrown on to the wire front of the aviary, and fell to the wooden bottom, and sounded as if the pellet was even then quite hard.

Everything that is given to the Shrike for food that requires pulling into smaller pieces, so as to be more easily swallowed, is impaled on one of the nails put there for that purpose. It hardly ever uses its strong feet for the purpose of holding its food when feeding, but I have at odd times seen it use its feet when it has had such things as beetles, cockroaches, etc., which were too large and hard to swallow whole.

Disgorging Pellets. I do not think it is generally known that Shrikes throw up pellets of the indigestible parts of the birds, mice, insects, etc., they devour. I cannot remember having seen it mentioned by any ornithological writer, but I find that pellets are thrown up, as at different times I have found a great number of them in cages and aviary in which the Shrikes have been kept, and have also observed them ejecting them on more than one occasion. The Shrike swallows great pieces of its prey at each gulp, taking down feathers, small bones, flesh, skin, legs, etc., all the indigestible parts being thrown up again, as above stated.

[Though perhaps not stated by many writers, I think it is common knowledge that the *Laniidæ* eject the indigestible portions of their food in the form of pellets. The "Cambridge Natural History" is at any rate free from the reproach referred to above, as the following quotation shows :—"In the large genus "*Lanius* which includes all the British Butcher Birds, *L. excu*-"*bitor*, *L. minor*, *L. pomeranus*, *L. collurio*, ... of which only "*collurio* breeds in our island. . . . . . The flight is strong and "rapid, but undulating and brief ; the food which may be taken "on the wing or procured upon the ground, consists of small "mammals and birds, insects, snakes, frogs. . . . . Pellets of the "indigestible portions of the food are ejected after eating . . . ."

—Ed.]

* * *

Hand-rearing Flycatchers and Blackcaps.

By Mrs. E. Warren Vernon.

It may be of some slight interest and use to our members if I give a few particulars of successful hand-rearing of the above two species.

Spotted Flycatchers : The Flycatchers are the spotted variety. The nest was built in a wall where a brick had fallen out, well sheltered from rain but in full view of all passers by. The young were fully fledged and looked ready to fly when I took them, but, curious to relate, they remained in the nest nearly a week after I had them.

They were reared entirely on green caterpillars and fresh ants' eggs for the first few days ; later Galloway's "Life" was given occasionally to accustom the birds to it. They are now over a month out of the nest, but still want to be fed, fluttering their wings and calling loudly if they hear my voice or see me pass. They are very partial to strawberries and I give them some daily, also banana.

In greediness they "take the cake," and if I have time I sometimes catch them flies, the biggest blue bottle is just a delicate *tit-bit*, and disappears in a moment, then like "Oliver," they are asking for more. They are of an extremely restless nature, always on the move; at present they live alone in a large aviary cage, but as soon as I think them able to fend for themselves they will go out to the aviaries.

Regarding feeding, during the first days of a newly-taken birds' life, it is absolutely essential that they should be fed not later than five a.m., and from then every half-hour till sunset; after a while the time between meals can be gradually lengthened up to an hour till they can feed themselves. It is a wise thing to give birds a late feed, say at ten p.m., just one mouthful each.

BLACKCAPS: These are quite different in their ways from the Flycatchers, even as tiny nestlings. Their nest was found among the thick undergrowth in the wood, in an elder tree. After two unsuccessful attempts, the third (which is never like the rest) was crowned with success, and the mother bird and nestlings taken together. They were put into a cage (the bars being covered with muslin) and left quiet till early morning.

At about four a.m. I heard the little clucking sound the young make, and put in some caterpillars for the mother; after a few minutes I heard sounds of knocking on the perches, she was killing the insects for the young to eat, and it was a joyful moment when I heard her feed the three calling babies. How great must be the maternal instinct, that will cause a freshly-caught wild bird to forget its own captivity and settle down to feed its young. She fed for two days and then was allowed to go free.

The young never stayed in their nest, but took to the perches, but how different from the restless Flycatchers. They hardly ever came off the same perch, sitting head to tail as close as possible, only very rarely flying across to the opposite perch. When fed, they hump up their backs, stretch their legs and wings and settle back to dose till next meal time.

I have had them one week; they can feed well for themselves, but prefer me to do the work. One of them already sings softly to himself in the early morning, so I conclude it is a cock bird. I feed them the same as Flycatchers, but they have more fruit mixed with the soft food. They are just beginning to take a bath and enjoy the water immensely. I think they are quite the sweetest baby birds of any species.

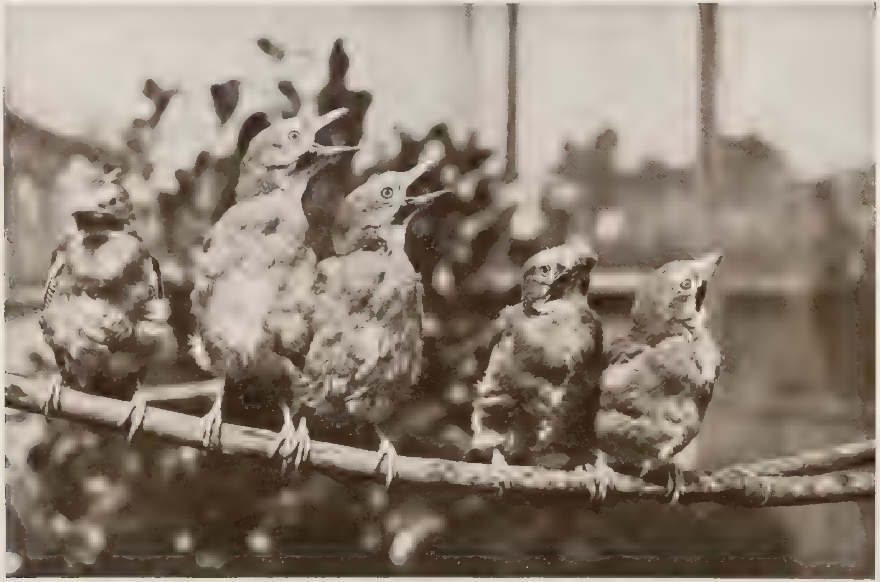


Photo by H. Willford.

Young Jays in Mr. Willford's Aviary.

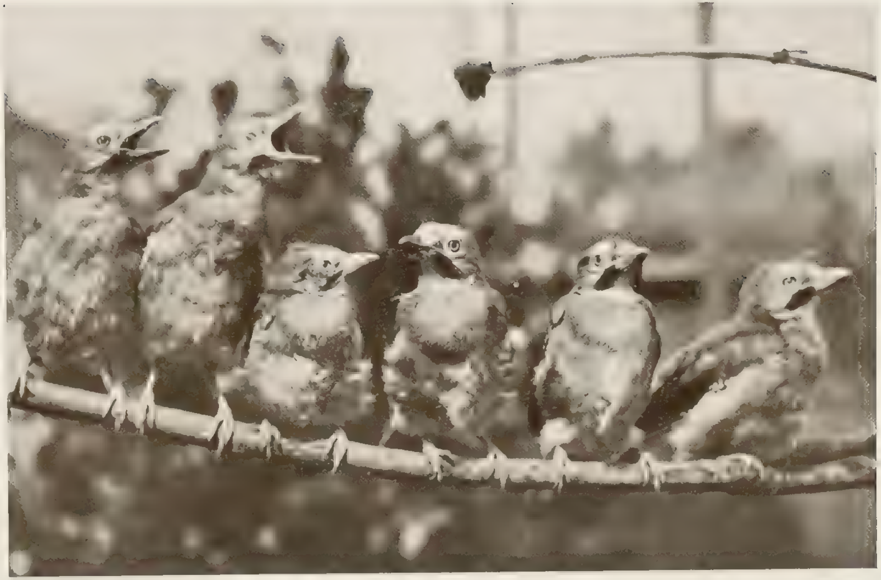


Photo by H. Willford.

Young Jays in Mr. Willford's Aviary.

General Notes: This terrible summer has been very disastrous for all breeding results. It has rained extremely heavily for the past six weeks and the aviaries have had little chance to dry. Some of the Waxbills have built nests and many are carrying materials about, but unless we have some hot sun I am not hopeful.

"Blessed is he who expects nothing" is the best motto for this year.

* * *

Hand-rearing Jays.

By H. Willford.

The Jays, which appear in the accompanying photos, were taken when quite young, from a nest built in a crab-apple tree, in the grounds here. I fear I have not much of interest to record concerning them; they were reared without difficulty on meat and Mealox, later barley meal was also given.

Considerable patience was required to photograph them, they proved bad sitters, were indifferent fliers and thought nothing of alighting on the camera itself, but, at last, by the aid of a piece of beef on the end of a stick, they were gathered together "all in a row" and induced to sit for their portraits.

The young taken were six in number, all being fully reared and are doing well; they are interesting and handsome, but garrulous birds.

Correspondence.

COAL TITS.

Sir,—Will any of the readers of *Bird Notes* kindly inform me whether Tits are in the habit of building their nests underground? One such was found here this summer in the roots of a fir tree, the solid earth forming the top of nest and with rather a wide aperture. On a casual glance it might have passed as the entrance to a rat hole. The almost fledged young could be seen moving about inside. It was difficult to get a good view of the parent birds, they slipped in and out so quickly. I fancy they were Coal Tits. Hon. Mrs. Somerset Ward.

HAWKS AND HERONS.

Sir.—Herons are often to be seen on the edge of a small lake in the grounds of our present dwelling place, fishing, we suppose, for eels which abound: no other fish has been seen there.

Not long ago a Heron was observed to rise and fly leisurely across the lake and settle on the top of a fir tree, it was followed immediately by a Hawk (Kestrel) with warlike intentions and menacing attitude causing the Heron to dislodge at once and fly down to the ground a short distance away. No sooner had the Hawk disappeared, however, than the Heron went back again to the top of the same fir tree, apparently ashamed at his want of courage, for on the Hawk returning a second time with the same intentions the Heron presented his formidable bill with such effect, that his adversary retired on the spot and was seen no more.

Is it usual for a Hawk to attack a Heron unprovoked?

Hon. Mrs. Somerset Ward.

BIRDS OF PARADISE AND WONDERBERRIES. A WARNING!

Sir,—In my notes on "Paradise Birds," in *Bird Notes*, I mentioned that I had given my birds "Wonderberries." From several articles I have seen in gardening papers these berries seem to be nothing but the berries of a poisonous herb. My plants were forced in great heat which seemed to have the effect of minimising their poisonous qualities. I am not going to risk this precious American importation as a bird food again, and I should be glad if you could find space in *Bird Notes* to make some reference to the dangerous nature of this plant, and so undo any mischief my mention of it may have caused.

E. J. Brook.

The Month's Arrivals.

On the 7th July I had an opportunity of inspecting the collection of South American birds imported by Mr. Hamlyn, viâ Southampton, which was briefly mentioned in our last number. The following species may be noted as of interest:—Red-bellied Thrush (*Turdus rufiventris*). There were six of these, apparently all cocks. This bird is of much the same length as our common Thrush but slimmer. It is greyish-brown on the back, grey on the throat and bright rufous on the chest and abdomen. Habitat, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. This is generally considered rare; nevertheless it has been several times imported by Mr. De Von. I have only once seen a female, which is much duller on the abdomen. Hudson describes the species as pugnacious, and the song as like that of our English Thrush, but the male that I had in 1905 did not answer to this description in either respect. I kept it with a male Grey-breasted Thrush (*T. phaeopygus*), which at the time I thought might be a female *T. rufiventris*, and, instead of fighting, they jointly built a mud-lined nest. It is a shy bird, constantly hiding in the thickest cover, but if a pair could be obtained, would be well worth trying.

The Oven-bird (*Furnarius rufus*). These were three in number, and some of them had suffered considerably from the attacks of others: they appear to be exceedingly pugnacious. This species is rather smaller than a Thrush, greyish on the back, reddish on the breast, with long pointed beaks. The species gets its popular name from the singular domed nests of clay, or ovens, which it constructs in trees.

Yellow-shouldered Meadow-starling (*Agelasticus thilius*): This is a very neat and active little Starling, smaller than a Cowbird, blue-black with a bar of brightest chrome across the wing. Both those imported were males, females being brown in colour, streaked with black. It is found in large flocks in Chili, Peru and Argentina, and nests in marshes.

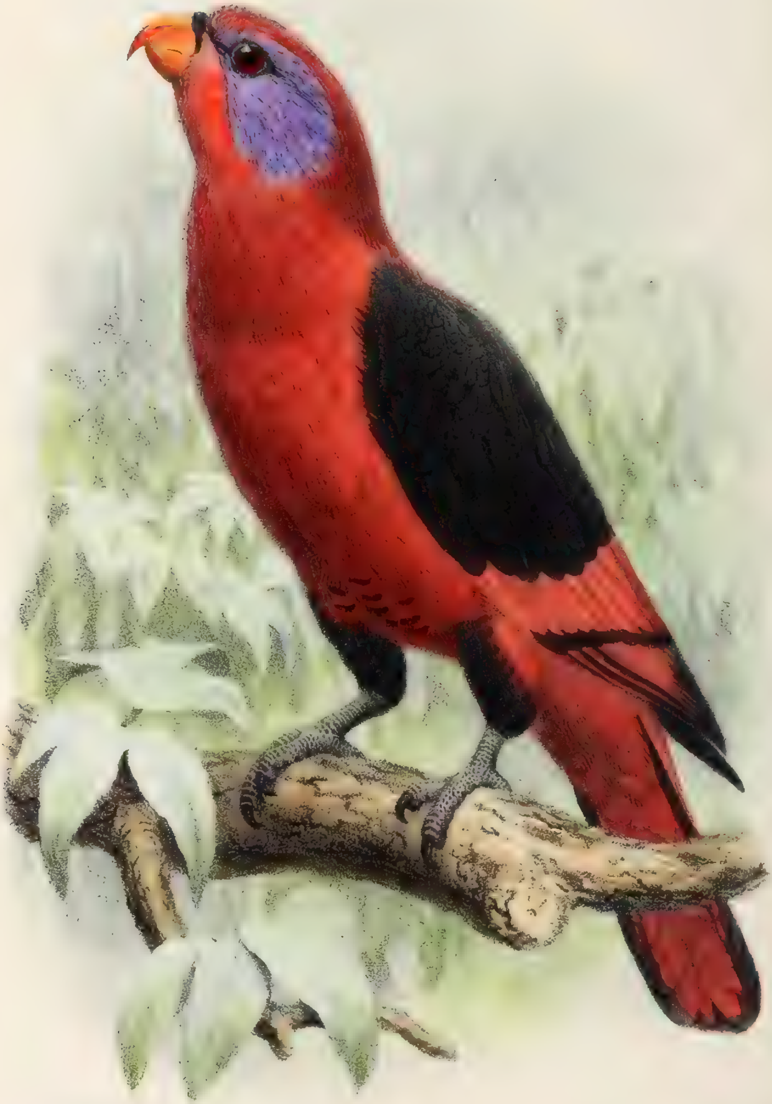
Saltator aurantiirostris. These two rare Tanagers were the first I had seen since the pair imported by Mr. Cross, in 1906, which came into my possession. Though classed with the Tanagers, this thick-set bird with its powerful beak appears to be a link between the Tanagers and Grosbeaks, as may be inferred from the fact that it can be kept on hemp-seed. The back is olive-brown, sides of face black, stripe over the eye buff, chin and upper throat buff with a deep black margin. The beaks of these two specimens, and also of mine, were dark horn-colour. Here is a point on which I wish someone would enlighten my ignorance, namely, at what age does this species acquire the yellow beak, from which it derives its classical name. My birds were quite one year old when they came into my possession, and I had them fully eighteen months—yet their beaks never changed colour. For this reason I could not believe they were *S. aurantiirostris* until, through the kind assistance of our Editor, they were sent after death to the South Kensington Museum for identification. This bird has a loud melodious whistle, and neither in the construction of its nest or in any of its habits does it resemble the Tanagers. W.E.T.

Ruddy Bunting (*Emberiza rutila*). About this time last year a small consignment of this species (called by the dealers "Chinese Buntings") was sent over and sold for a few shillings. Lately Mr. Luer has had a much larger consignment which have been offered at the not exorbitant figure of

3/6 a pair. This rather pleasing bird is a rich umber on the head, throat and back, and deep chrome on the breast and abdomen. In summer it ranges as far north as Siberia and North China, and in winter as far south as the Himalayas. The females have no red on the throat, and the crown is greyish brown. We may note two rather curious circumstances: in the first consignment I could only find one hen, and in the second lot of quite one hundred birds only two hens. Probably, therefore, there are not more than half a dozen hens of this species in the country; yet, the other day, an itinerant bird-dealer passed my house and amongst his very small collection was a genuine hen *E. rutila.* W.E.T.

Sexes of the Green Jay. I return once more—and briefly—to this subject because my birds have at last given indications of sex. The small bird with yellowish-green back is a hen, as previously suggested: she has commenced to construct a nest. The two birds with blue-green backs are cocks: they fight, and one pairs with the hen. All three have narrow white frontal bands of the same width, so presumably this is not an indication of sex, but possibly of age. If this characteristic really connoted sex, we should have to assume that nine-tenths of the individuals hitherto imported have been females, whereas we know that, except in the case of such species as the Pekin Robin which reach us viâ the Continent and are picked over en route, the majority of imported birds are males. W.E.T.

Spermophila parva. It will be remembered that our members, Messrs. Suggitt and Sutcliffe, imported towards the end of last year two very rare species of *Spermophilæ*, namely *S. analis* and *S. parva.* Two of the latter were very kindly sent me, after death, by Mr. Suggitt for inspection and were placed in the hands of a taxidermist to be made into skins. I received a polite note from the latter, per return of post, to the effect that he had thrown them away as they were in too bad a condition for preservation. I replied by a brief post card, saying that he need not trouble to undertake any more work for me, and quite shortly I received the skins in good order. About six months since Mr. Hamlyn asked me if I could identify three very small South American Grosbeaks. I inspected them and came to the conclusion that they were *S. parva* in immature plumage. A month since I noticed that one of them was shewing a black feather on the crown. A few days since I again had an opportunity of inspecting this little bird and was interested to find it had nearly completed its moult, and was undoubtedly a young male *S. parva*, with two females. The three birds were offered me at so reasonable a figure that I could only wonder why the large number of experts who must have seen them during the last six months should have let such an opportunity slip. W.E.T.



H Goodchild del et lith

Huth imp

BLACK WINGED LORY

Eos cyanogenys

From a living specimen in the possession of O. Millsum Esq.^r

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Black-wing Lory.

(*Eos cyanogenys*).

By O. MILLSUM.

The subject of our coloured frontispiece this month—my Black-wing Lory—was christened Mephisto very soon after its acquisition, on account of its colours being reminiscent of the well-known character in "Faust." He is one of the quietest and quaintest of all my birds. The majority of the Lory family are confirmed screamers, and can hold their own with the best for noise; but this one, although at times gives to vent his feelings in a shrill call, for the greater part of his time keeps very quiet and reminds one of the old yarn about the lady's parrot which she said was not a talker but a tremendous thinker. Further, the Black-wing appeals to one, for although quiet he misses very little that takes place, and his quick eye is observant of all taking place around him and is constantly on the *qui vive.*

In colouring, sombre rather than glaring, yet beautifully contrasted, he appeals to the eye of an artist where brighter coloured birds fail, and the velvet-like appearance of his feathers rarely fails to draw the admiration of the ladies.

Extremely rare, for a long time I thought it to be the only specimen in England, but our esteemed member, E. J. Brook, Esq., also possesses one and was under the same impression; thus at one time both were disillusioned. One thing, however, is certain, Mephisto is the only one of his kind to have graced the English show bench up to the present. Three times only has he been shown, and his record is: First at Swindon, in what was referred to by the judge, Mr. J. Frostick, as "the hottest class of its kind he had ever seen." Second at the L.C.B.A. and Palace.

Cinnyris cupreus. COPPER SUNBIRD.

Range. Tropical Africa generally; common in Senegambia. (*Sh.*)

Rather rare in the Gambia, but I have occasionally seen it in and near Bathurst. The male is a black bird with the head and neck a bright copper colour, shot with gold and lilac.

C. splendidus. THE SPLENDID SUNBIRD.

Range. Senegal to Gaboon. (*Sh.*)

The male is a violet-headed bird with green back, black abdomen, wings and tail, a broad collar of violet edged with red and pale yellow pectoral tufts. Female dull olive above, pale buff below. I have never shot or recognised this species, but it is recorded from Bathurst.

C. venustus. BUFF-BREASTED SUNBIRD.

Range. West Africa from Senegal to the Cunene and Zambesi rivers. (*Sh.*)

A small, very daintily coloured species. In the male the head, neck, and back are bright golden green, the face and neck violet with a narrow black breast-band below; the remainder of under surface pale yellow with orange-red and bright yellow pectoral tufts. The female has no metallic colours.

This Sunbird is fairly common in Fogni, the most densely wooded part of the Protectorate, where I see it every year, and in March, 1907, shot males in full colour, but I have not to my knowledge met with the species elsewhere.

C. chloropygius. SCARLET-COLLARED SUNBIRD.

Range. West and Central Africa; one specimen at Berlin from Senegal, one in the British Museum from Cape Palmas; also recorded from the Casamanse. (*Sh.*) All these places are either immediately to the north or south of us, so that it almost certainly does also occur in the Gambia, but I have never seen it, nor do I believe that it has actually been recorded from this country. The male is a green and brown bird with a scarlet breast-band.

Chalcomitra senegalensis. SCARLET-CHESTED SUNBIRD.

Range. West African coastland between 10 and 15 N. Lat. (*Sh*).

This is, I think, by far the commonest of our brighter coloured Sunbirds, both in Bathurst and up country. They generally occur in small parties, which in the autumn consist largely of males, hopping and flying about the foliage of the larger trees. I have noticed in this species a habit which, as far as my observations go, is at any rate distinctly unusual with other Sunbirds, and that is that in the dry season they are often seen hunting the branches and trunks of leafless trees, or the ground immediately beneath them.

The male is dark brown with the crown and a broad moustache-streak bright green, the latter contrasting markedly with the dark olive chin and throat; the chest is bright vermilion with a narrow subterminal light blue bar to each feather. Female brown above, buff below. The young males at first resemble the females, but later on become mottled with bright colours, which gradually spread till the full plumage is obtained. The moult takes place, as with most of our birds, at the beginning of the dry season, about December, and specimens obtained then are dirty and dull-plumaged.

C. fuliginosa. CARMELITE SUNBIRD.

Range. Senegambia to Congo, commoner towards the Equator. (*Sh.*)

C. adelberti. BUFF-THROATED SUNBIRD.

Range. Senegambia to Gold Coast. (*Sh.*)

I know neither of these birds; both are brown, not unlike *C. senegalensis*, from which however they differ in having no red chest-band. The crown and throat in *fuliginosa* is lilac, in *adelberti* green.

Cyanomitra verticalis. GREEN-HEADED OLIVE SUNBIRD.

Range. Gambia to Angola and through Equatorial Africa to Masailand. (*Sh.*)

This is rather larger and more stoutly built bird than those of the preceding *genus* and is much less gorgeously plumaged, its chief hues being various shades of brown or olive with no metallic colours, except in the breeding season, when *both* sexes have metallic blue-green heads and necks. At McCarthy Island, in November and December, I often see comparatively large plain-coloured Sunbirds feeding among the branches of Soto and Kobbo trees, and these I am practically certain are of this species.

Anthothreptes longuemarii. VIOLET-BACKED SUNBIRD.

Range. Senegambia to Benguela. (*Sh.*)

In this species also and in two of the other Gambian representatives of the genus, both male and female have metallic plumage, which when once assumed probably persists through life. It is a very noticeable bird, as the whole upper surface and throat is a bright metallic violet set off with pure white under-parts and lemon yellow pectoral tufts. They are fairly common in Bathurst and in many parts of the Protectorate, especially during the rains.

Three other members of the genus *Anthothreptes* are recorded from Gambia, but none of them are actually known to me, and are probably rare here. They are:

A. hypodila. TROPICAL COLLARED SUNBIRD.

A metallic green bird with a violet collar, which is found throughout nearly the whole of Tropical Africa, and of which there are specimens from Gambia in the Bremen Museum. (*Sh.*)

A. rectirostris. YELLOW-CHINNED COLLARED SUNBIRD.

Range. Gambia (one specimen in the British Museum) to the Volta River. (*Sh.*) Upper parts golden green, chin and throat yellow.

A. gabonica. LITTLE BROWN AND WHITE SUNBIRD.

Range. Gambia (one specimen in the British Museum) to the Congo. (*Sh.*) A plain coloured little bird with no metallic hues at all, brown above and white below. Both sexes alike.

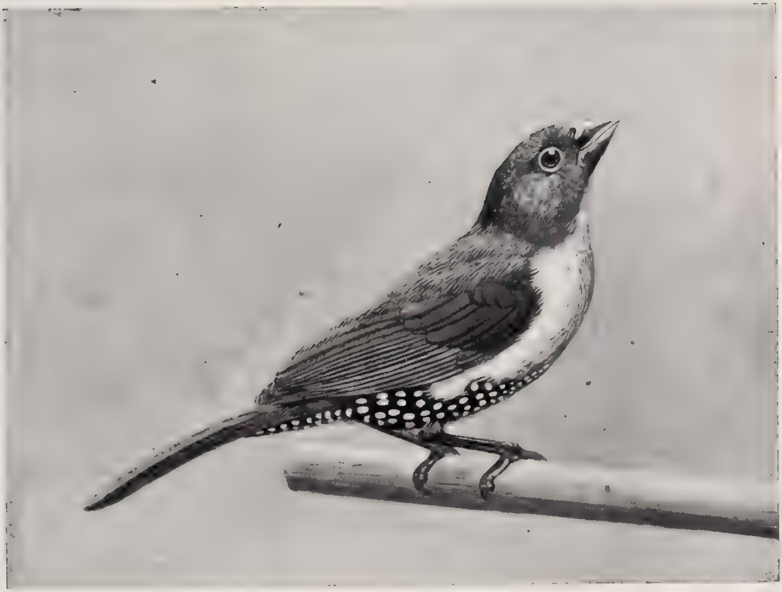
There are a couple of additions which I should like to make to my notes on the Weavers of the Gambia.

This year (1909) I saw a good many more of the Yellow-shouldered Weavers mentioned on page 8. This was at Kartong on our southern border, where they were not at all uncommon in May on the dry sandy flats, covered with coarse grass and low straggling thorns, which fringe the banks of the Allahin river outside its belt of mangrove bush and mud. Here they were feeding on the ground with other Weavers and Waxbills in pairs, or more commonly in parties of three, one in colour, the others in brown plumage and probably hens. They were very tame for Weaver-birds and only flew away on one's close approach, and then only to the nearest bush, to return almost at once, as one moved on, to the ground, where they seemed to spend the greater part of their time. The males were about half-coloured by the middle of May, with the yellow patches (absolutely confined to the shoulders) very distinct and a good deal of black body colour, though this was still mottled with brown feathers.

I am still ignorant to what *genus* they belong, as although I often was close enough to see them well, I never actually met them when I had a gun with me. Their shape and short tail at one time made me think they were *Urobrachyae*, from what I remembered of the plate of one of that *genus* in the B. M. Catalogue, while the colour pattern of the male was exactly that of the Yellow-shouldered Whydah (*Coliopasser macrocercus*), but then their tails were distinctly short, (even allowing for the fact that they were not yet in full colour) not comparatively long as they would have been in that species, which resembles in that respect its near ally, the Yellow-backed Whydah, which does occur in the Gambia and which I know well, wild and in captivity. Besides the known range of *C. macrocercus* is in Eastern Africa, Abyssinia, etc.

Spermospiza haematina. p. 38. THE BLUE-BILLED WEAVER. In June I saw a single specimen of this bird in a cageful of Weavers and Whydahs, which after days of haggling and much parting I eventually obtained and brought home. It is a bird about the size of an Orange Bishop, very Bullfinch like in build and strikingly handsome. The male has a lovely crimson breast and face, a blue-black back and belly. The female has a similar crimson front, though the colour does not extend quite so widely nor is it quite so brilliant, but the back is grey and the belly black, speckled with round, white spots, giving that part of the body quite a Guinea Fowl look. The beak is dark blue with a red tip, which makes the bird look as if it had just been pecking one of its fellows. My bird (a hen) lived to get home and to the Zoo, where she is now in the small-bird house. While with me she was easily catered for and appeared to be quite harmless to other birds. Her appearance certainly suggests a certain amount of savagery and her introduction into a cage full of birds caused quite a panic among them at first, but I do not think she ever even attempted the slightest attack on any of her companions.

(To be continued).

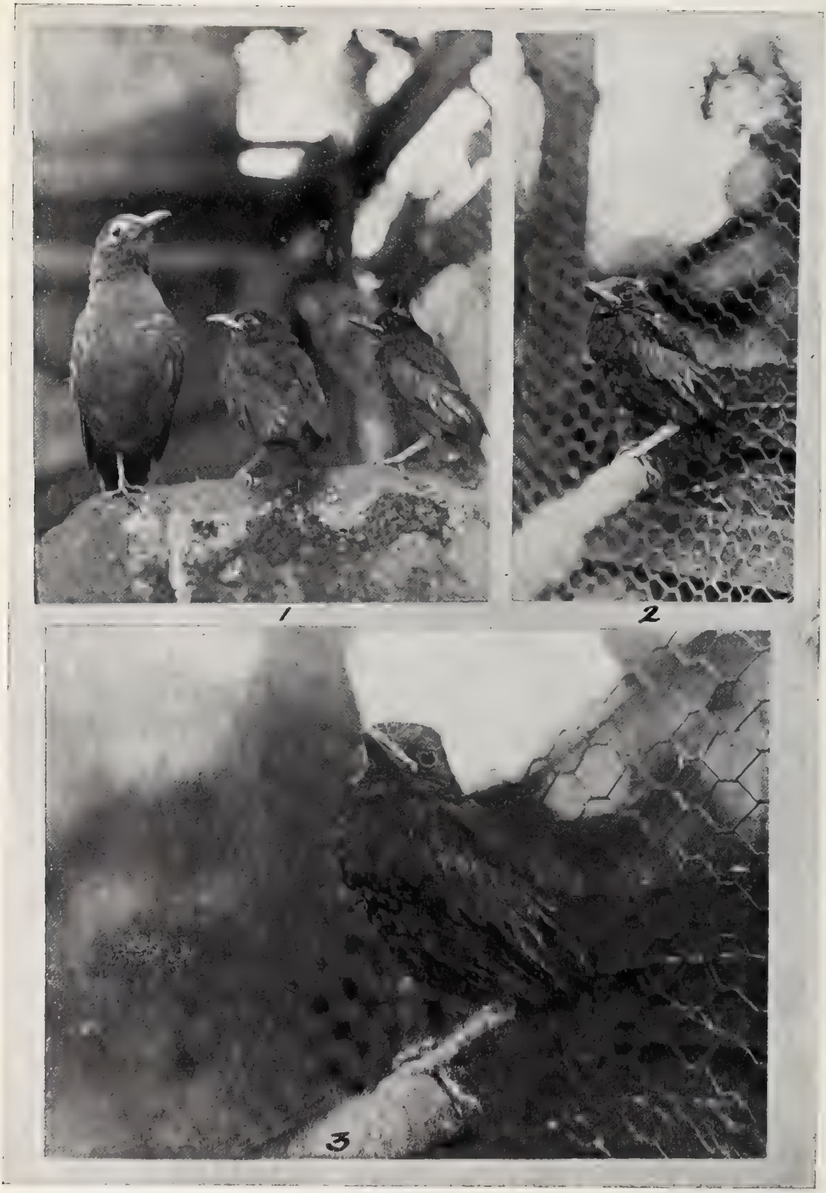


The Blue-Billed Weaver. ♀

(*Spermospiza haematina*).

(*Vide Birds of Gambia*).

Drawn from life by H. Goodchild.



Photos by E. O. Page.

Grey-winged Ouzels (*Merula boulboul.*)

The Nesting of Grey-winged Ouzels.

(*Merula boulboul*).

By WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., &c.

My first acquaintance with this species began in 1903 with an adult male, kindly presented to me by my esteemed friend Mr. E. W. Harper. It formed one of four which he hand-reared while in India, one of which still survives in the possession of his sister at Bedford. Unfortunately my specimen only lived two years, but awakened in me such an interest that I sought for several years unavailingly to replace it. The story of this bird and an account of the species is given in *Bird Notes*, Vol. IV., p. 262, therefore, it will not be necessary for me to do more than give an account of the nesting and rearing of the young. However, there is one point I should like to refer to: that is, to confirm the exception I took to Oates and Jerdon's description of the bill of the male as coral-red. I would repeat that a larger acquaintance with the species has fully confirmed what I wrote there, viz., "In the winter, or rather after the autumn moult, the "bill is paler yellow and the *the tip is horn-black;* but on the "approach of the breeding season, or in my aviary in the early "spring, the bill becomes rich orange-yellow, and the *black* "*disappears* from the tip." With this introduction I will proceed to give my experience in the breeding of this species. It will, however, be necessary for me to briefly recapitulate the notes which have already appeared in this journal as to the earlier abortive attempts.

THE ACQUISITION OF THE ADULTS: After fully three years of seeking to obtain specimens, giving orders to prominent dealers both here and on the Continent, our esteemed member Captain Perreau wrote me, and also sent me an advertisement for *Bird Notes* that he was coming to England early in the ensuing year and was also collecting a few birds to bring over with him. I at once sent him an order for a pair of this species, with others, and in July of last year I was once more in possession of this species, and this time of a true pair—three pairs and several odd males in all were imported—pairs coming into the possession of Mr. H. D. Astley, the Zoological Society, and myself.

The records of these pairs are as follows:—

Mr. ASTLEY'S: Built and laid a full clutch but did not hatch out.

Mr. PAGE'S: After two abortive attempts two young were successfully reared, the first of this species to be reared in this country.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY'S: After one failure, two young successfully reared, almost simultaneously with the above.

When my pair arrived they were much travel worn, but soon looked up, and after the autumn moult were in faultless condition.

As early as February of this year my hopes were raised very high, for the male began to drive the female about, giving her no peace till she condescended to seek a nesting-site (*vide p.* 52 *current Vol.*), this went on for some little time and I began to fear that in my mixed series and moderate accommodation they had no scope and that it was almost hopeless my looking for success, and for a time I contemplated sending them to one of my friends with better aviary accommodation; however, I determined to have a try as I wished them to nest under my own observation if possible. Early in March I observed the hen carrying bents and mud, and a little later found a typical nest, fully six inches deep, about nine inches diameter, with a depression of about two inches. Of this nest I shall simply say it was very solid, constructed on the top of a nest box under the shed, and to-day, after the period of nearly five months it is almost perfect and like a block of hard cement, in fact would need a hammer to smash it. Perfect as it was and excellent as its position seemed to me, it was never used. I note the following in connection therewith:—

The hen alone collected the building material.

The hen alone did the building.

The nest constructed under such adverse conditions was a typical one.

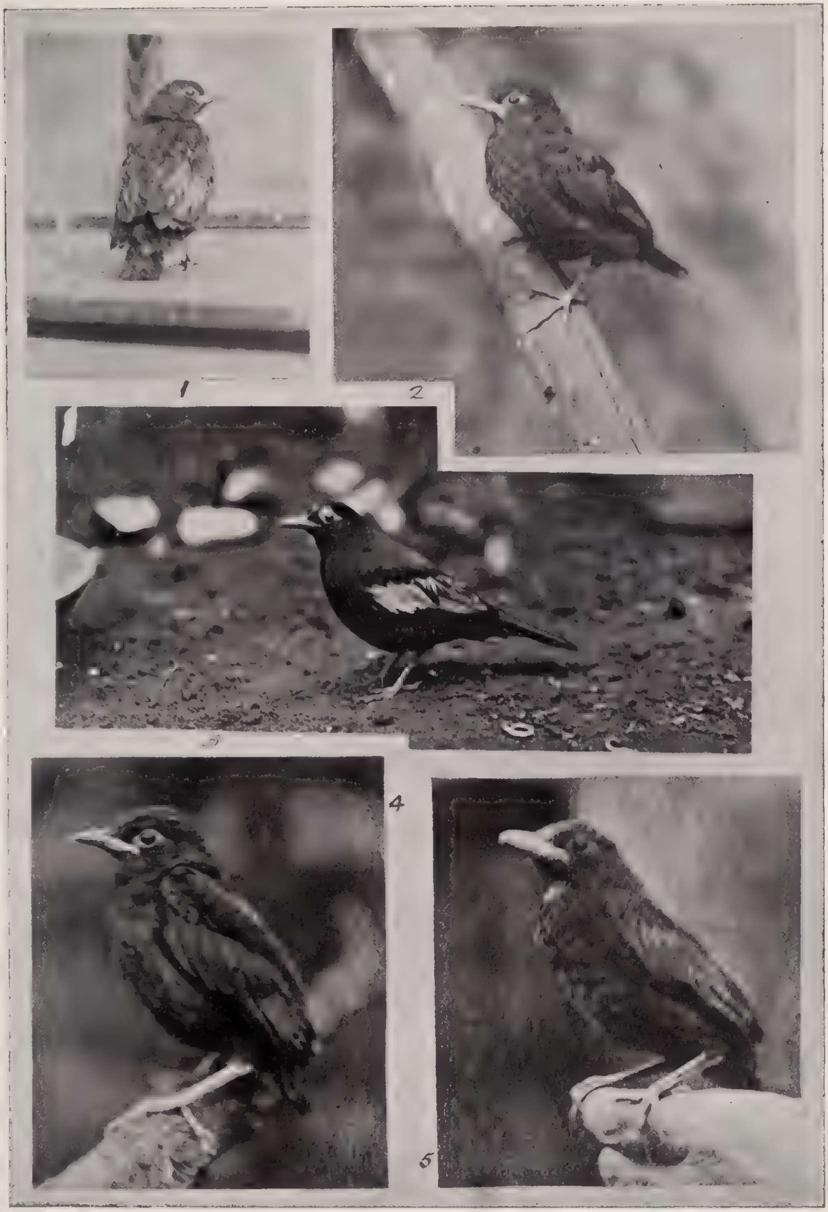
The male ceased to drive the hen about as soon as building was commenced, guarding her carefully while she was collecting material, suffering no bird to impede her movements.

While I was wondering how it was eggs were so long in appearing, for the birds were pairing frequently, I noticed the hen again carrying mud, etc., and this time into a parrakeet's nest-box with concave bottom; here a typical nest was again built, and on May 3 I was delighted to see a clutch of three eggs—greyish-green in colour, thickly mottled and streaked with reddish-brown. The female alone performed the duties of incubation. On May 13 three young birds were observed in the nest, the following day one of these was either dragged or thrown out, but the other two grew apace. My garden produced no worms (weather dry) and my mealworm bill was something alarming; fortunately the birds were tame and would take the worms from a tin held in the hand, but on May 24 one young died and the next day the last; both were very forward, with the ends of the quills bursting and the colour of the fledgelings well indicated. This was a heavy disappointment, as up to May 23 there appeared every indication that the young would be fully reared. I had better say here very clearly that my birds refused to feed their young on anything but live food, refusing even meat. I supplied practically every existing item of avian diet, not even omitting egg (though my views are well known upon this topic, and that I neither use nor recommend its use) as I was anxious to achieve success, but all to no purpose, the parent birds would take nothing but live insects to their young.

With very little delay a third nest was built, and on June 11 two more young were hatched from a clutch of three eggs. I was away at the time spending a week end at Cleethorpes with our esteemed member Mr. Suggitt, who, on hearing the news, kindly offered to keep me supplied with gentles, so as to vary the supply of live food; however it was all to no purpose, failure again dogged their attempts; one of the young dying on the seventh day and the other four days later (*vide p.* 133 *current Volume.*)

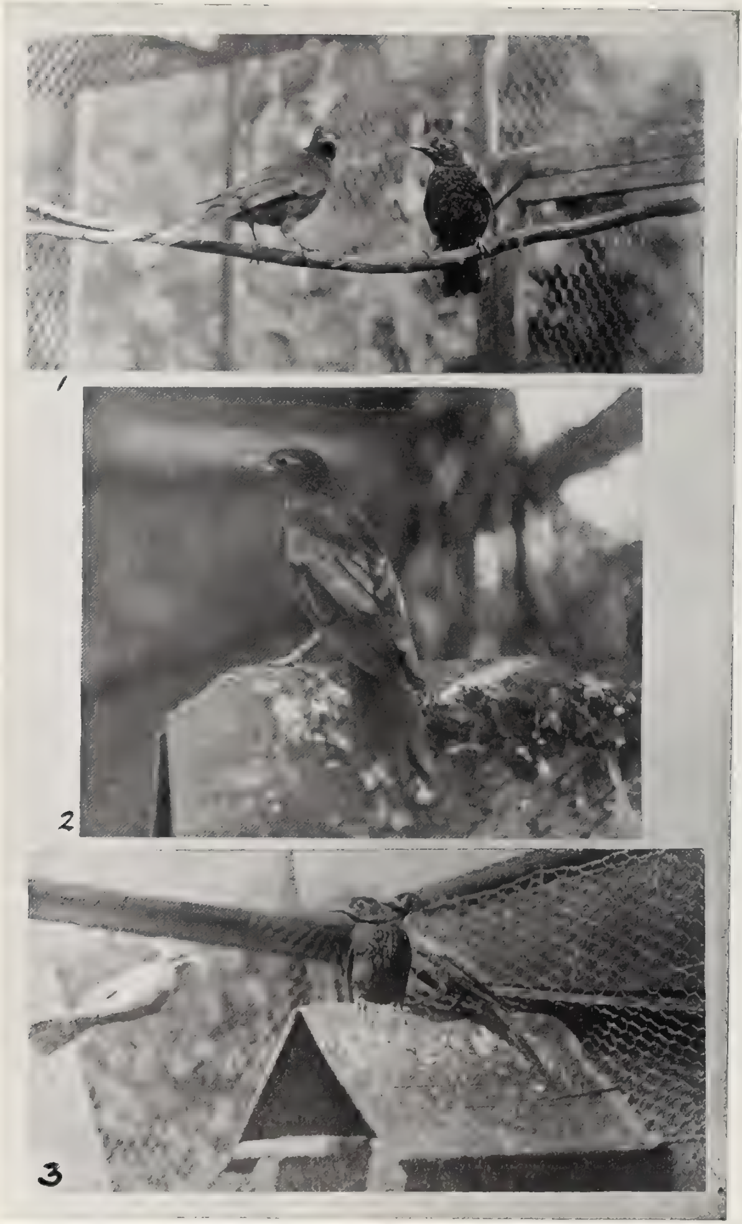
A fourth nest was constructed, again in a nest box, but was not used, the birds only appearing to go about it in a half-hearted manner, and I gave up all hopes of breeding them this season.

ULTIMATE SUCCESS. I had really ceased to take much notice of their doings in the keenness of my disappointment, but in the meantime they had repaired nest number two and again laid a clutch of three eggs, and, on July 16, two very fine youngsters were hatched out. With these I may say there was no faltering, everything went on without a hitch, and on the last three days of July the young were several times observed on the ledge of the nest box, taking their first glances into the "wide, wide world," and on August 1st they left the nest box never to return. At eight o'clock a.m., when the birds were fed, they were still in the nest, but at ten a.m. hearing much excitement (*i.e.* flying about) I went down to the aviary to see what was the matter, fearing cats or something similar, when my eyes were gladdened by seeing the young on the wing and my own excitement was about on a par with that of the parent birds. With this success I must closely associate my esteemed friend Mr. R. Suggitt, for he has kindly sent me supplies of earthworms twice weekly since the young were hatched. Again, I consider making the parent birds search for the food in a natural manner was an important factor towards success. I put in the aviary two boxes about 18″ × 14″ × 6″ deep and drew on my nurseryman for supplies of dung (full of smallish red worms) thrice weekly; this was placed in the boxes and the birds extracted the worms themselves (fortunately none of the other birds appeared to care for them); the male bird in particular being indefatigable in digging them out, and, now the task is over, the feathers round the base of the beak are non-existent. In addition to this, the old birds were permitted to give their young as many mealworms as they chose four times daily; this was possible, as the hen would stand on the ledge of nest box and take the worms from a box held in the hand; as soon as she commenced to swallow the worms herself the box was removed. Up to the age of fourteen days nothing but live food was given to the fledgelings (the closest observation was kept), but during the last three days the young were in the nest a little ripe fruit (mostly cherries) was also given, and after they left the nest this was given freely. So far as I could observe the male was not permitted to enter the nest till the young were seven days old, though he carried food to the hen who gave it to the young. At the age of four weeks they were looking after themselves, though the male still protects them from the other birds. They are now freely eating of the



Photos E. O. Page.

Grey-winged Ouzels (*Merula boulboul.*)



Photos by E. O. Page.

Grey-winged Ouzels (*Merula boulboul.*)

ordinary soft-food mixture, secure their share of any mealworms thrown in, and I have seen them swallow earthworms fully four inches long. Previously to being able to fend for themselves they would come on the hand, but since are almost as wild as if they had been reared in a state of nature, but now are becoming more confiding, though somewhat easily scared.

After the young left the nest, the duty of feeding and protecting them, devolved almost entirely upon the male, who was most assiduous in the care of his progeny. It was interesting to observe him with his beak full of mealworms, putting eight or nine at a time into the gape of a youngster.

The plates show the young birds: (1) On the day they left the nest (seventeen days old); (2) four days later (twenty-one days old), and the last series were taken on August 28 when the birds were forty-five days old. In the photos are also shown similar nest boxes to that in which the young were reared.

THE FLEDGELINGS: In the callow stage their skin was greyish flesh colour, well covered with ochre-yellow hairs, some of which may be seen in one of the photos projecting through the plumage of the young bird. Their eyes opened on the sixth day and on the seventh day the pen feathers were observed on wings, back and tail; on the tenth day the pen feathers were bursting practically all over the bird, while on the fourteenth day they were fully fledged, though tail and flight feathers were but short. Their plumage is of the typical spotted or striated character of the thrush-tribe and very distinct from either parent; moreover the sexes are quite distinct and readily to be discerned on the day they leave the nest.

Young ♂: Blackish chocolate brown, the upper surface and crown of the head practically unspotted, but the feathers of the mantle and upper back have lighter margins, producing faint undulations over these areas; at the base of lower mandible are three longitudinal streaks of palish golden-brown, the centre one being very short in comparison to the two outer ones; the feathers of the sides of lower face, side of neck and remainder of under surface have tawny-brown shaft streaks and brownish margins, imparting quite a spotty appearance to the under surface; the median and greater coverts, tertiaries, and outer webs of the secondaries are dull ash-grey; the skin round eyes is blackish, with a suspicion of red round the inner edge; bill darkish-horn colour, paler towards the tip; cere round nostrils blackish, which is also the colour of the legs and feet.

Young ♀: Similar but distinctly browner, and the shaft streaks are regular and distinct both on the upper (including the whole of the head and neck) and lower surfaces and the margins of the feathers much lighter brown than those of the male: her ashen wing marking are more obscure and distinctly browner; the whole of her plumage has the appearance of being finely lined with brown, which makes her very distinct from her brother; she is also distinctly smaller and quite effeminate in appearance comparatively.

This account is already too long and I must leave any further remarks till a later date, when if all goes well, I shall hope to describe age, etc., at which they assume adult plumage.

DESCRIPTION OF PLATES.

PLATE I. (1) Adult ♀, young ♂ and ♀ reading left to right.
(2 and 3) Young ♀, seventeen days old. First day out of nest.
PLATE II. (1 and 5) Young ♀.
(2 and 4) Young ♂.
(3) Adult ♂. Twenty-one days old.
PLATE III. (1) Left figure, young ♂; right figure, young ♀.
(2) Young ♂.
(3) Young ♂, left; young ♀, right. 6½ weeks old.

Breeding Swainson's Lorikeets.

(*Trichoglossus novæ-hollandiæ.*)

By Miss C. ROSA LITTLE.

As I have once or twice previously given accounts of my Swainson's Lorikeets, it may be of interest to readers of *Bird Notes* if I give a further record.

This season I have been more successful than ever with them; the weather which has proved so disastrous to general bird breeding has apparently not inconvenienced them at all. In December last, the same pair that had bred before cut a hole in the wooden roof of their cage and nested between this and an outside roof of corrugated iron. There was very little space for them in this upper attic, so I raised the iron roof a little and, on looking in, found they had two eggs. Unfortunately they smashed one, but hatched out the other, and reared it up in the roof; but, as I did not like this nesting place for them, being difficult to keep clean, I blocked up the hole as soon as they had brought the youngster down.

In April they seemed very anxious to nest again; I put them in a large wooden nest box, and this time they successfully reared two youngsters; the finest they have ever reared. These when old enough I removed to a large aviary in the conservatory, where they lived happily with their brothers and sisters, six altogether.

The old pair are now (August 19th) nesting again, and so far have an egg. If they rear another brood it will make three in less than a year. They had previously only nested once in the year, each time about Christmas.

All their progeny are strong, healthy birds which have never been sick or sorry during their little lifetime. They are very tame and affectionate, but express their affection by screaming at the top of their voices whenever they see anyone they are fond of. The moment I appear I am greeted with a perfect babel of shrill cries. Much of it being, I am afraid, cupboard love, as they generally expect me to give them some *tit bit* in the shape of cake, fruit or chickweed, they are also very fond of jam and every day at tea time begin to call out to draw attention, and although they cannot see us at tea they seem to know the time quite well. I now feed them on bread and milk, made with boiled milk, and they certainly do well thereon. I have never known any of them in rough plumage, with the exception of sometimes having a few tail feathers frayed or broken; they are in perfect condition and quite tight in feather.

I have had very little success with my other birds this season, rearing but few Canaries and Budgerigars, and losing more than I have reared.

I have a pair of INDIAN ROCK PARROTS which I had great hopes of, for they sat for over three weeks on a clutch of eggs, which however failed to hatch out. Have these birds been known to breed in England? *

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* I presume you mean the Rock Pebbler Parrakeet, if so, they have been bred in this country.—ED.

The Breeding of Malabar Mynahs.

(*Poliopsar malabaricus*).

By Miss Mary E. Baker.

Early in June my pair of Malabar Starlings seemed very anxious to find a nesting site, and, after inspecting every box and basket in the aviary, they finally decided on a box which I placed on a shelf for them.

This box was 18 inches long, 10 inches wide and about the same in height; the cover was nailed down and a round hole cut in the front large enough for a Starling to comfortably pass in and out through. The nest (a large one) was constructed of dried rootlets, grass bents, dead leaves and feathers.

It took several days to complete, and the two birds kept up a continual chatter as they flew about the aviary collecting building material. I think both of them worked at the nest. After completion, four eggs were duly laid, of a very beautiful shade of blue without any markings whatever. The hen alone performed the duties of incubation, the period being about thirteen days.

When the young birds were hatched I knew that, if they were to be reared, I should have to be industrious indeed, so besides supplying them with mealworms, I hunted for butterflies, moths, beetles, large flies and grubs; dug small earthworms and also supplied bunches of leaves covered with green fly.

The parents were most assiduous in their attention to the young, in fact appeared to be feeding all day long. I took them fresh supplies every hour from early morning until eight o'clock at night until the young left the nest.

Although so much insect food was given, the young were not brought up on that alone, as they consumed a lot of ants' eggs (as bought), dried flies, some small pieces of beef and milk sop, the latter made with boiling milk.

The little Malabars left the nest when three weeks old, fully feathered, and almost as large as their parents. They grew apace, and when a month old could pick up food. They now fend for themselves and also bathe regularly.

They all resemble their parents in plumage save that they are lighter in hue and have no grey on their head; they also lack the blue beak markings of the adults. While in the nest they were not brooded at all by day, and I am not at all sure they were at night; they may have been brooded at night, but such did not come under observation. The quantity of live food is being gradually reduced and will soon reach the normal quantity.

They are fine, attractive and very robust young birds, very vivacious, flitting to and fro almost continuously, in fact are every whit as quick on the wing as their parents; who are very fond and also, apparently, very proud of their progeny.

The Nesting of the Dwarf Ground Dove, the Cinnamon Tree-Sparrow and Pelzeln's Saffron Finch.

By W. E. TESCHEMAKER, B.A.

I recently received from our Editor a stern reminder that, whereas I had duly received F.B.C. Certificates last season for four species, I had only written an account ot the nesting of one species, the Cirl Bunting. In vain did I plead that I had written more than enough lately for *Bird Notes*, and that what we wanted was new contributors and more varied subjects. To all my arguments I received only one answer namely that our Rules, inflexible as the laws of the Medes and Persians, enjoined that an account must be written when a Certificate is granted and that the Rules must be obeyed.

Let me then, as briefly* as may be, recall the chief facts I noted in connection with the above three species, all of which have now passed into other hands and some, alas!, into the land of shadows.

One of the drawbacks of aviculture is the partings! We begin to take an interest in a species, we watch its courtship and incubation, we join in the hopes and anxieties of the old birds, we work hard in conjunction with them in rearing the young, we become the best of friends, we triumph and then—off they go to make room for something new, something which we shall perhaps not like one-half as well! But I always try to have something to remember my old friends by: I keep my old note-books and, whenever a species nests with me, I endeavour to secure a photo. Two of these photos are reproduced herewith.

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* I am sure most will regret with me, that brevity has been carried to the length of excluding incubation and fledgeling data. ED.

THE DWARF GROUND DOVE (*Chamoepelia griseola*): This handsome and active little South American species was imported by our member, Mr. W. E. Harper, in 1907. It is very like the Talpacoti Dove but smaller. It runs exceedingly well, and from this characteristic and its habit of crouching, one may infer, that in its own country, it spends much of its time on the ground.

Mr. Harper wrote me that he thought it would be an easy species to breed because the hen had already laid with him in a cage. However, it did not prove to be quite so simple a matter. Every species presents certain special difficulties, and these particular Doves seemed to have no knowledge of nest building. They laid eggs in the most unsuitable situations, such as on the ground, on hot-water pipes and in the seed tins.

At length I induced them to make use of a nest which I constructed for them and then we had no further trouble. I gave a pair of young of this species to our Editor which I hear have laid several times but have not hatched;* the old birds and one young one went to an aviculturist in the north of England and I have had no further news of them.

THE CINNAMON SPARROW (*Passer cinnamomeus*): This species was brought home by our member, Capt. G. A. Perreau, and had not previously been imported. It is a jungle-sparrow, nesting in holes of trees, breeding in May and June and resident in the Himalayas. The adult male has a beautiful yellow breast which, singularly enough, it assumes in the winter; in the breeding season the deep yellow fades to pale chrome. The hen is not unlike a hen domestic sparrow but more handsome. This species went to nest as soon as ever I turned them into an outdoor aviary, but the old birds quarrelled so desperately that I

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* One young bird was hatched, but was killed by the cold and wet of June when nearly due to leave the nest, being fully fledged. I attribute failures principally to the fact of the birds being brother and sister, six clutches in all have been laid. ED.

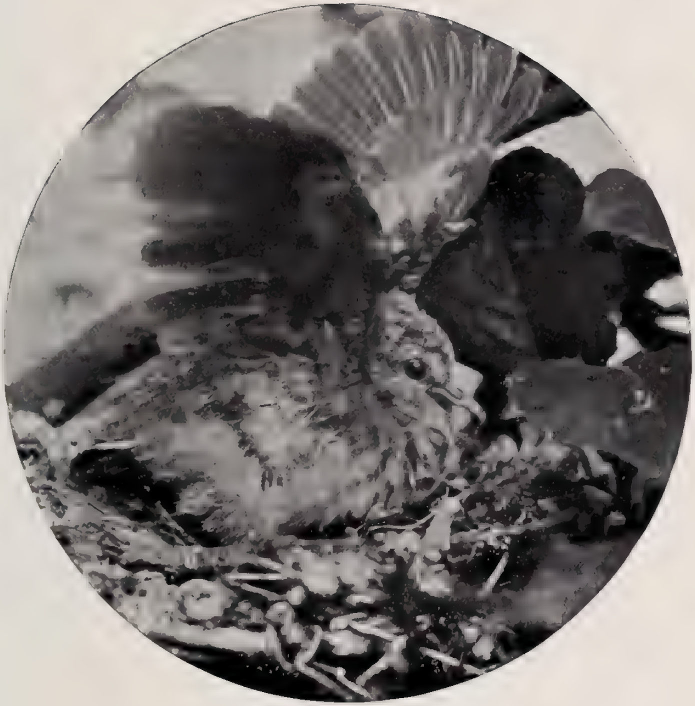


Photo by W. E. Teschemaker, B.A.

Young Dwarf Ground Dove.
(*Chamoepelia griseola*).

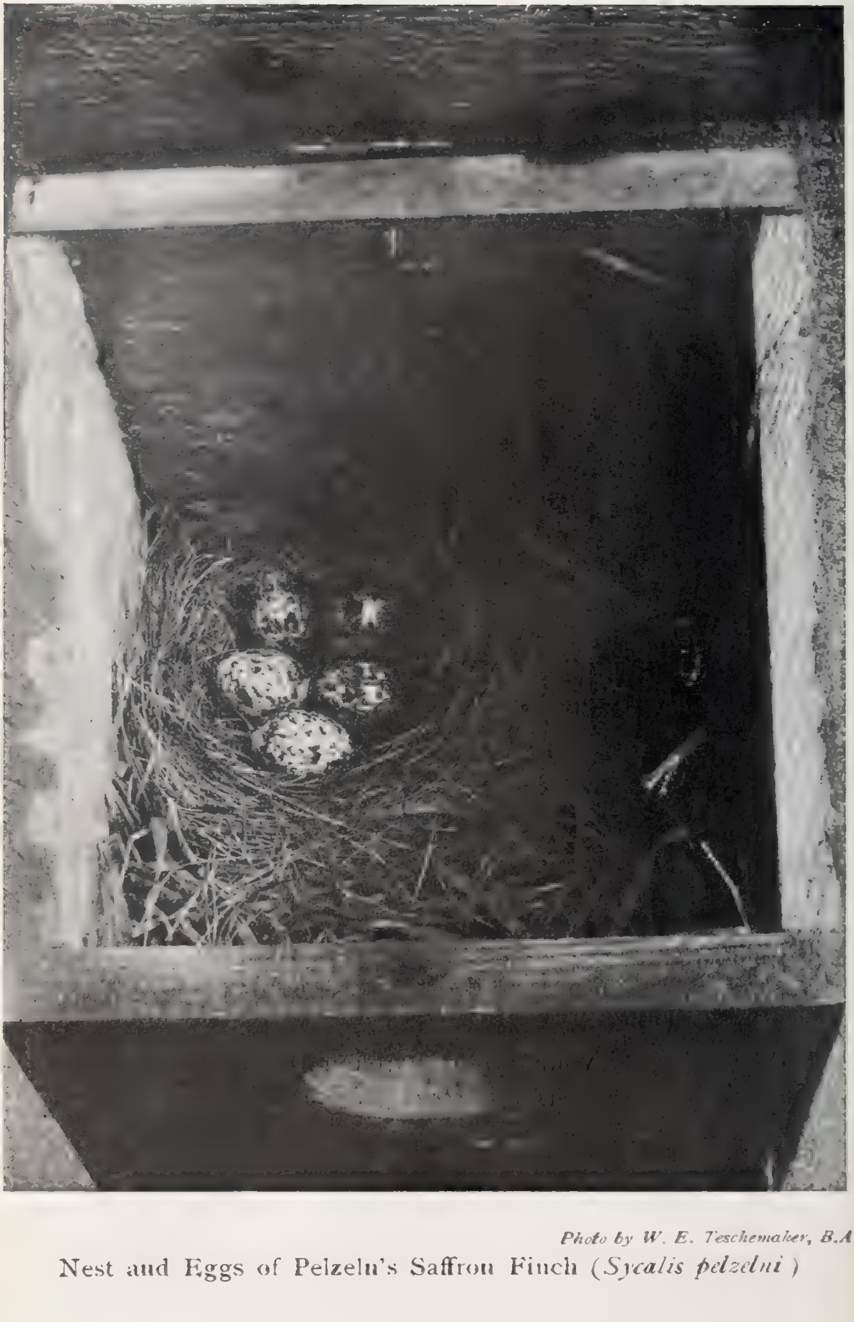


Photo by W. E. Teschemaker, B.A.

Nest and Eggs of Pelzeln's Saffron Finch (*Sycalis pelzelni*)

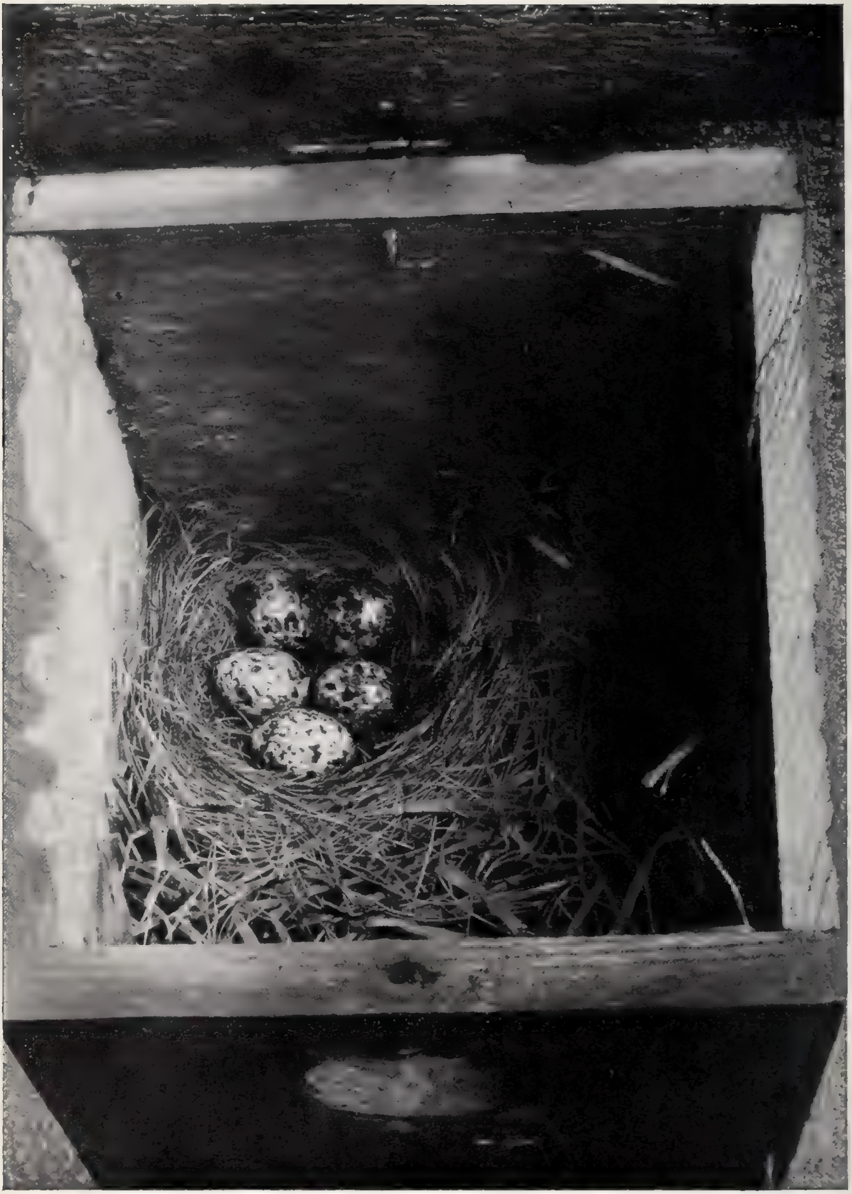


Photo by W. E. Teschemaker, B.A.

Nest and Eggs of Pelzeln's Saffron Finch
(Sycalis pelzelni).

had to remove the male and two of the young, allowing the female to rear the remaining two.

In the autumn, just at the time when the adult male was resuming his yellow breast colour, I parted with the old pair to one of our members who wanted something for exhibition purposes but, I regret to say, they turned out badly. The cock died and the young cock I sent to replace him never came into colour besides proving quite untameable. I understand however, that another of our members has purchased and bred from the young pair.

Of the four Himalayan species I obtained from Capt. Perreau, only this and Jerdon's Accentor proved easy to breed. The Himalayan Siskin, a beautiful little bird, has not nested and I have not as yet been able to obtain a hen Pink-browed Rosefinch.

PELZELN'S SAFFRON FINCH (*Sycalis pelzelni*): This is a smaller bird than the Common Saffron Finch and the hen is grey not yellow. It is very hardy, a free breeder and has a pleasing song. Altogether, one would call it a most desirable species—yet I found it impossible to find a good home for mine at the end of the nesting season and had finally to let them go, much to my annoyance, to the trade. The beautiful eggs (reproduced in the photo of actual size) are richly spotted with dark chocolate. The young closely resemble the female and very soon forage for themselves, whilst the young cocks begin to warble almost as soon as they leave the nest. For a cage, an indoor flight or a small out-door aviary it would be hard to find a better bird than Pelzeln's Saffron Finch.

Notes on the Ruddy Bunting.

(Emberiza rutila).

By H. V. Johnson.

Prior to the August issue of *Bird Notes* I had been unable to accurately identify my pair of Buntings. The cock, I purchased as a Japanese Red-headed Bunting and the hen, at a later period, as a Chinese Bunting, but they are both of the same species.

I have seen this species advertised as Japanese Red-backed, Japanese Red-headed, Chinese and Yellow-brown Buntings, as well as the name at head of these notes. They are to be cheaply purchased, hence I presume they are fairly common, though I have never seen them described in any book or paper. This is my chief reason for penning these notes. The cock came into my possession in August, 1908 and he has since been an occupant of my outdoor aviary; it is evidently a hardy species, for my locality is a northern one (Lancashire) and the past winter contained some very severe spells and much raw cold and wet, yet he was very fit and cheery the whole period and has never ailed at all since coming into my possession. I was rather disappointed on receiving the bird to find no trace of red in its plumage, as I naturally expected it from the dealer's name Red-headed. The song I find very pleasing, not very loud, something like a Saffron's, but minus the shrill notes, and, it also resembles this bird as to size.

The head, throat, tail and back are a burnt sienna-brown and the bust a pale chrome-yellow; it is of quite a slim and elegant build and has quite a longish tail.

As he was very pugnacious to his fellow captives, I took the earliest opportunity of obtaining a mate for him, but was unable to do this till July of this year; I had hoped that this would have given him more occupation and so have made him more amiable, but it has made no difference, in fact he practically ignores the hen.

The colouring of the female is very similar to that of the male, but of a much more subdued hue, and the brown areas of the under surface are more extensive; at any rate this is the case with my specimen. The male when angry or excited erects the feathers of the crown into a small crest.

These birds, although not gaily coloured, are very pleasing and interesting, and well worth a place in a mixed series. The pugnacity of the cock being the only drawback in keeping them with small birds. I do not know whether this species has yet been bred in captivity, unfortunately mine have made no attempt to nest, but I am in hopes they will yet do so.

[All the Buntings, with but few exceptions, are more or less pugnacious, and very few species have been bred in captivity; but, in a roomy and natural aviary there is no reason why they should not do so—however in aviaries containing mixed series, those species which build open cup-shaped nests have but little chance of success, their nests being mostly pulled to pieces as soon as built. To make success probable they ought not to have too much company and it would be well to have some large covered nest boxes, with large front openings, hung about both in the open and under cover, but all should be well screened with some kind of brushwood. For some species a grassy bank is necessary, it should contain a few cavities which should be cunningly concealed by tufts of grass and the like. I have no time to search before going to press, but cannot call to mind any record of the breeding of *E. rutila* in the country. ED.]

My Birds and their Doings.

NESTING AND OTHER NOTES FOR 1909.

By H. WILLFORD.

(*Continued from page* 149).

In consequence of the recent changeable and inclement weather, several broods of young birds that looked very promising have nearly all died from the effects of it.

PILEATED FINCHES (*Coryphospingus pileatus*). These built an open cup-shaped nest, laying two white eggs (rather large for the size of the bird), which duly hatched out and looked very promising for seven days, but during the heavy rains then prevailing the young were deserted and left to perish miserably. The old birds are now again engaged in incubating two more eggs.

CRIMSON-WINGED OR AURORA FINCHES (*Pytelia phœnicoptera*). After several unsuccessful attempts, these have at last succeeded in fully rearing two young, which are now quite independent of their parents. The young resemble their parents but are much duller in hue and the crimson areas much smaller. The two previous clutches, laid in a rush basket, hatched out, but in each instance the young were thrown out of the nest; but for their third and successful attempt, they built a domed nest in a fir tree, three eggs were laid and two successfully hatched out, and, as aforestated, were fully reared.

RUFICAUDA OR RUFOUS-TAILED FINCHES (*Bathilda ruficauda*). These have been very prolific this season, and there are now quite a small crowd of young birds, some of which are already commencing to show red on the head. They are still nesting, and if the weather only keeps open, apparently more will be reared.

CUBAN FINCHES (*Phonipara canora*). Though these birds appear to be in the very finest condition, all their eggs have proved infertile. Their nests are beautifully and compactly built, being quite a work of art.

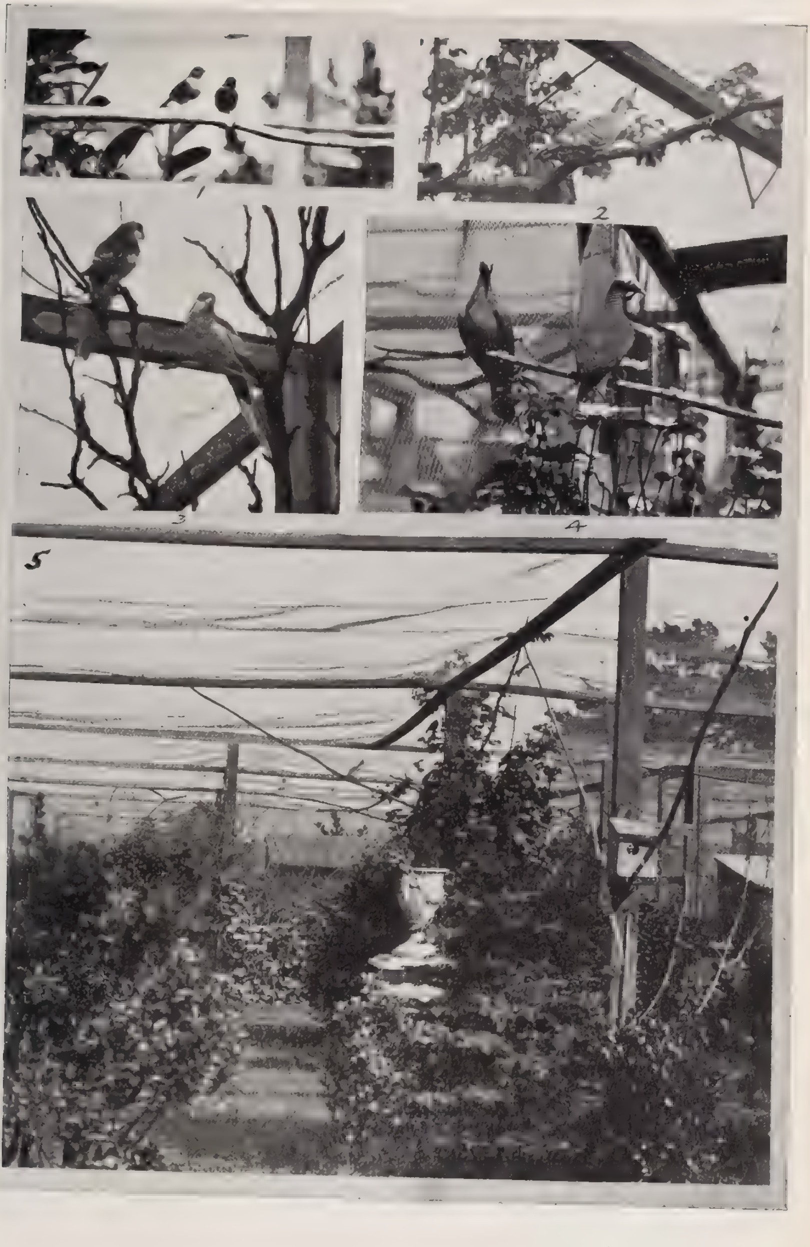
CRIMSON FINCHES (*Neochmia phaeton*). These have built in an old travelling cage and laid four eggs, which they are busily engaged in incubating. The cock bird spends a great deal of time in the nest, and I draw the conclusion that both sexes share the duties of incubation.

RINGED FINCHES (*Stictoptera annulosa*). Four young left the nest on August 17th, only one of which survived the heavy rains. The beak of this youngster is much darker than that of the adult birds, the cheeks are dirty white, the first band very narrow and the second band not visible; the wing spots are very indistinct.

A second pair are incubating, while yet another pair are busy constructing a nest.

MASKED GRASSFINCHES (*Poephila personata*). These have nested and successfully reared two young birds, which are strong on the wing and quite independent of their parents. Very inclement weather prevailed when these left the nest.

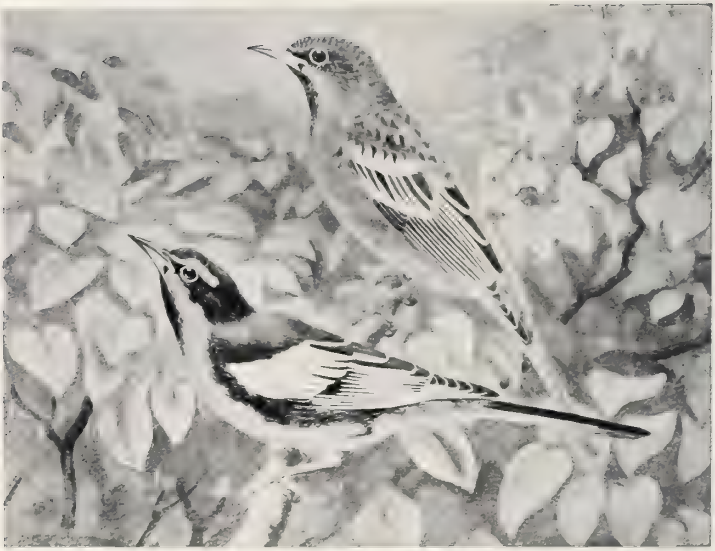
CORDON BLEUS (*Estrilda phœnicotis*). These exceedingly beautiful little Butterfly Finches have done fairly well, and their young have stood the recent awful weather much better than the young of reputed hardy species. A small army of eight left the nest during the heavy rains; all have survived and are now



Photos by H. Willford.

Mr. Willford's Aviaries.

1. Cuba Finches. 2. Young Crested Pigeon. 3. Mealy Rosella Parrakeets. 4. White-crowned Pigeons. 5. Looking through the Aviaries.



Black-sided Hangnest *(Icterus abeillii).*

♂ and ♀

Drawn from life by H. Goodchild.

strong on the wing and foraging for themselves. Their respective parents are again busily engaged in the duties of incubation.

AN UNCOMMON HYBRID. Two young have been reared from what I believe to be a St. Helena Seedeater (♀) and a Saffron Finch The young bird is of a greenish-brown colour, much lighter on the breast.

BLACK-CHEEKED LOVEBIRDS (*Agapornis nigrigenis*). These have proved a failure with me this season; their last attempt culminating in my finding the young scalped in the nest when fully fledged. There are no other birds in the aviary capable of performing such an act, so their parents must be the culprits. They seem inclined to go to nest again.

CRESTED PIGEON (*Ocyphaps lophotes*). One more young is on the wing (*see plate*); the second egg being accidently knocked out of the nest. It is really surprising that this mishap is not of more frequent occurrence, as all the nests of foreign doves are ridiculously small and fragile, and it is really marvellous that they last till the young are reared.

GREEN AMADUVADES (*Stictospiza formosa*). These have built and are busily engaged in incubation, the eggs are due to hatch shortly. The hen has been in heavy moult while incubating.

PARRAKEETS and LORIES. Success has been almost nil with these birds. My Purple Caps have laid quite a number of eggs, but generally end by making a meal of the eggs. I have placed one of their eggs under a Cockateel, but have not yet examined it to see if it is fertile. [I fear there is little prospect of a seed-eating species rearing one of the pollen feeders.—ED.]

A RECENT ACQUISITION. A pair of UVŒAN PARRAKEETS*

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* The Hon. and Rev. Canon Dutton has kept this species, with but I think poor success. Will he kindly oblige us with his experience? Personally, I do not consider the milk sop should be permanent, though it may be useful to get them established. I certainly class them with the seed-eating group and would supply ripe fruit and green food liberally, testing their tastes thoroughly till I discovered what they really fancied in this respect. A piece of sugar cane for them to chew up would, I believe, be much appreciated; at least it is by almost every species I have supplied it to.—ED.

(*Nymphicus uvœensis*) have just come into my possession, and although not gaudy are strikingly beautiful birds. At present, as I am not quite sure of their proper treatment, they are getting a very liberal diet of seed, ripe fruit and milk sop, but do not seem to touch the latter. Perhaps some member who has kept the species (though they are fairly rare I believe) will give me the benefit of his experience as to diet.

Providing the weather will hold good for a while, I have hopes of rearing a few more young birds, to swell the already fairly large number that have been reared in my aviaries this season.

Editorial.

THE BLACK-SIDED HANGNEST (*Icterus abeilli*). This fine and rare species is a handsome bird indeed, is a typical Hangnest, and is now enjoying the comparative liberty of the Western Aviary at the Zoo, where its demeanour is quite characteristic of the genus. The plate will indicate how strikingly the colour areas are arranged. The female is quite distinct from her mate, and is also a very handsome bird. They give promise of soon becoming very tame and confiding as is the case with most of this genus. It is an inhabitant of Central and Southern Mexico.

Adult ♂. Above deep black; slight superciliary stripes from the front to above the eye rich yellow, greater and lesser wing-coverts and outer margins of regimes white; tail bright yellow, two middle retrices, inner webs of next pair and tips of others black; the under surface rich deep yellow mixed with orange; flanks and middle of throat black; bill slaty-black; legs and feet blackish. Total length 7¼ inches; tail 3¼.

Adult ♀. Above grey, mixed with yellowish and variegated with dark olive and black; wings blackish-olive, edged with white; under surface yellowish; middle of abdomen whitish; flanks greyish; tail, yellowish-olivaceous with dark tips.

THE MEXICAN HANGNEST *(Icterus parisorum)*. This also is located in the Western Aviary, and, as my remarks *re* preceding species are equally applicable here, it only remains to give a brief description of colouration.

Adult ♂. Above black; lesser wing-coverts and lower back sulphur-yellow; wings black, greater wing-coverts tipped with white; below, down to middle of breast black; abdomen and basal half of tail rich yellow, apical half of tail black; bill, legs and feet black. Total length 7½ inches, tail 3⅜.

Adult ♀. Distinct from male—Above olivaceous, variegated with black on the interscapularies; wings blackish, with coverts terminated with white; under surface yellowish.

It ranges over Lower California, Arizona, Texas and Mexico.

A handsome and pleasing species though the prevailing colour is black.

BIRDS OF PARADISE: The unique consignment, briefly referred to in our last issue, is indeed a notable one. My request for further details found Mr. Brook away from home, and, to my great regret, Mr. W. Goodfellow laid aside with malaria. I am sure all members join with me in wishing him a speedy recovery. Mr. Brook, however, kindly sent me such scattered details as he could from memory.

MEYER'S SICKLE-BILLED BIRD OF PARADISE (*Epimachus meyeri*). He describes the eyes as being very prominent and of a bright greyish blue, and that their extraordinary conspicuousness imparts to the birds a very curious and wide-awake appearance. Further, this is not their only curious feature; for when at rest their large fans stand out very prominently, as do also the flank feathers, making the birds look quite flat and very broad, in fact a sort of pressed out appearance. They are very lively just at dark and run about the wire and branches with great activity and very rapid movements.

SUPERB BIRDS OF PARADISE (*Lophorina superba*). Mr. Brook describes these as being very shy, yet not wild, providing there is nothing to cause a panic; they make constant use of their enormous hood, bringing this curious and striking ornament right over their heads, practically wrapping themselves up therein.

BLUE BIRDS OF PARADISE (*Paradisornis rudolphi.*) He describes the male as being a very cheerful bird and quite tame; he sings to himself a rather melodious warbling song nearly all day, evidently quite satisfied with his own voice and his own company.

PRINCESS STEPHANIE'S BIRD OF PARADISE (*Astrarchia stephaniæ*). Mr. Brook states that these birds make a curious sound with their wings, exactly like the rustling of silk; they are very clean birds, bathing several times a day, keeping their plumage in faultless order. This species has the upper plumage rich olive-green; lower back and tail black, the latter glossed with purple; head and neck shaded green; the ear coverts form a steel-blue fan on each side of the nape; lower surface, bronze, merging into copper-red. The whole of the plumage has a beautiful velvet-like gloss and surface.

BOWER BIRDS: Two species are included in the consignment, viz., The Gardener (*Amblyornis inornata*) and the Orange-crested (*A. subularis*). Mr. Brook finds these all shy, retiring and rather wild, and forms the opinion that this is quite natural.

MOUNTAIN CASSOWARY. This is a young bird and Mr. Brook's notes are quite interesting. It delights to play with any children that will race about with it. It also takes great interest in any work the gardeners may be about, and evidently concludes that the lawns are mown for its special amusement.

All the consignment are doing well and only two losses have occurred, a Stephanie Bird of Paradise, which arrived in poor condition, and a Victoria Lory (*O. grandis*) which, unfortunately killed itself. The Meyer's Sickle-billed and Stephanie Birds of Paradise are imported for the first time, as also are some of the Lories and Lorikeets. We shall hope to return to some of the species in near issues, but heavy claims upon our space this month have prevented us fully describing the species.

NESTING NOTES: These are not numerous this month, but nevertheless are somewhat notable. Mr. W. E. Teschemaker is now the happy possessor of three young Giant Whydahs (*Chera procne*), which are at present disporting themselves among the reeds and bushes of the aviary and foraging for themselves.

He also has a young Grey-headed Sparrow (*Passer diffusus*) now enjoying semi-liberty amid the natural conditions of the Ringmore aviaries, which thus add two more "first" records to the laurels they have already won this season.

Mr. R. Suggitt is also to be congratulated on a rare event, viz., the all but successful breeding of ~~the~~ Indigo Bunting (*Cyanospiza cyanea*); three young birds duly left the nest, but soon succumbed to the bitter cold and wet, with which our hospitable climate greeted them.

Mr. Matthias has again kindly sent me brief records of August results from his aviaries.

> "A month of disappointments, except in two notable cases:—
>
> "White Java Sparrows (*Munia oryzivora*, var. *alba*), six strong young birds on the wing.
>
> "Blue-wing Lovebirds (*Psittacula passerina*), four young birds fully fledged and all but ready to leave the nest.*
>
> "Canaries—have deserted nest.
>
> "Diamond Doves (*Geopelia cuneata*), two young on the wing.
>
> "Ruficauda Finches (*Bathilda ruficauda*)—young all dead.
>
> "Long-tailed Grassfinches (*Poephila acuticauda*), one young bird.
>
> "Black-cheeked Lovebirds (*Agapornis nigrigenis*), both pairs have young.
>
> "Parrot Finches, Stanley and Pennant Parrakeets, still not nesting."

ERRATA: In the list of birds given on page 163, line 7, *Epimarcus inryert* should read *Epimachus meyeri*.

BRITISH BIRDS.

British Bird Notes.

By R. SUGGITT.

BREEDING BLACKCAPS (*Sylvia atricapilla*). The second attempt of my Blackcaps to rear young met with complete success. Only two eggs were laid, and both hatched either on July 13th or 14th. Some infested plum trees provided an almost unlimited supply of greenfly, but, though the young were occasionly fed upon them, gentles were much preferred, and gentles, with the exception of an occasional feast of spiders, and what flying insects the parent birds could catch, formed the bulk of the fledgelings' food. From the first these two young ones appeared to be far more robust than those of the previous brood; they progressed rapidly and left the nest on July 26th, and from this time ripe banana and soft food was liberally given to them by their parents.

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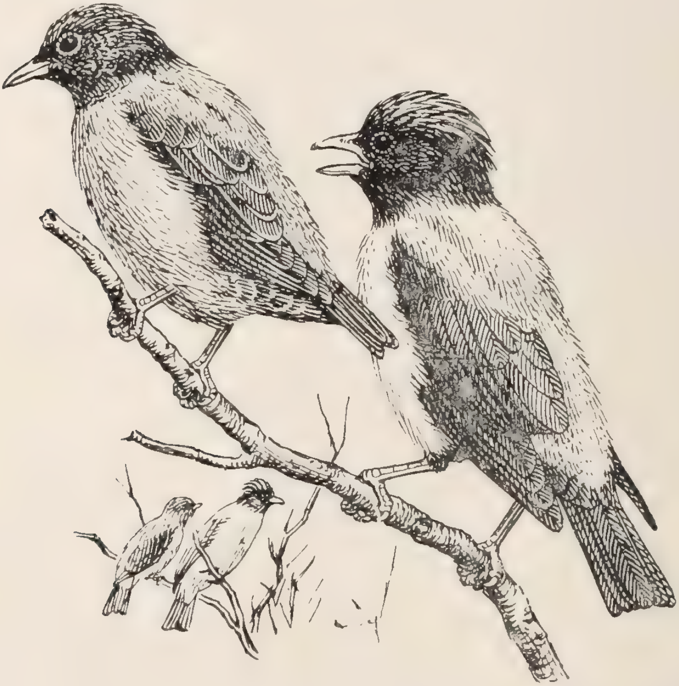
* On September 1st one young bird left the nest.

On August 12th, I saw both young ones eating soft food and banana, but they were still being fed by their parents until I caged them on August 29th.

On July 31st the old birds commenced to incubate in a third nest and sat for the full period, but this clutch of three eggs proved to be infertile. The male sang continuously, but, with less frequency after the young were hatched.



Drawn from life by H. Goodchild.

ROSY PASTORS.

Rosy Pastor *(Pastor róseus)*: On August 1st, a Rosy Pastor haunted the vicinity of my aviary, the attraction being some late cherries of which he ate an incredible quantity. I hung some trap cages temptingly baited with the ripest of friut in the trees, but he was very suspicious of the cages, and except on one or two occasions when he tried to rob them through the wires, he confined his attentions to the growing fruit. He was shy, and I have no doubt a genuine wild specimen, of this, rather rare, British visitor.

THE MIGRANTS. The small migrants are very late and very scarce this season, and up to the present time (Sept. 2nd) have only appeared in about a fourth of their usual numbers. Willow Wrens are as usual by far the most abundant, and after them come the two species of Whitethroat. I have seen a few Blackcaps but have not succeeded in catching any yet.

I find the Blackcap and the Lesser Whitethroat to be the easiest avicultural subjects amongst the Warblers; the Common Whitethroat is far more delicate than either of them, while the dainty little Willow Wren is so frail, that unless one is prepared to give more than ordinary time and attention to its needs, it is better left to continue the long journey to its Winter home.

* * *

GOLDEN EAGLE: From a letter received from our esteemed member, Mr. E. J. Brook, on August 23rd, I have extracted the following as of general interest:—" When I was out deer stalking " a few days ago, a female Golden Eagle came within twenty-five " yards of me, while I lay watching some stags; she never saw " me and remained close to me for quite ten minutes, I never " knew one come so close before." W. T. P.

RAVENS: That the Raven is still fairly plentiful in some localities is evident, for our esteemed member Mr. Goodchild, during a recent visit to a northern county, saw fourteen of this interesting species; for obvious reasons exact locality is not given, but I certainly hope Mr. Goodchild will give us a few details of his interesting observations in our next issue.

W. T. P.

BREEDING INDIGENOUS SPECIES: Our esteemed member, Mr. W. E. Teschemaker has bred the Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*); as soon as the young males began to get black feathers on the top of the head, one of them was promptly killed by its parent (♂) and the other young birds were then speedily placed elsewhere. Mr. Teschemaker sent the body to me and I must confess it was one of the finest young birds I had ever seen, both as to being well nourished and the excellent quality of its plumage. Another esteemed member, Mr. R. Suggitt, has this season had three broods brought off in one of his aviaries. but only one brood reared to maturity; this pair of birds had three clutches, the young from the first being killed by the inclement weather of June. In the past, when I kept British species largely, I bred the Goldfinch, Bullfinch and Greenfinch freely, and also reared single broods of Siskin and Twite, while I have had broods of Chaffinch, Yellow Bunting and Corn Bunting hatched out but not reared. Mr. Teschemaker has also bred the Cirl Bunting and Accentor, and Blackbirds, Thrushes and Larks have all been bred in captivity. There is much that can be learned from breeding our native species under restraint, that cannot be gleaned from field study even by the most careful observer, and I trust that all who keep British species will place on record all attempts to reproduce their kind in captivity as well as actual successes, with as full details as possible. W. T. P.

Correspondence.

TITS, KESTRELS AND HERONS.

Sir,—I am glad to see in last month's Correspondence Column some queries anent British Birds. Coinciding as they do with the first appearance in our Magazine of the heading "British Birds," they seemed to show that our Editor has correctly guaged the feeling of our members and has good reason for the step he has taken. Personally I am glad to see our sphere thus extended for this reason: We have an excellent monthly magazine devoted to British Birds which, however, does not condescend to notice aviculture, and we have an excellent avicultural magazine which does not condescend to notice British birds, but we have not at present any magazine which concerns itself with the keeping and breeding of indigenous species in aviaries. Evidently therefore this is a step in the right direction, and I sincerely hope that, if our members are of the same opinion, they will try to make this new undertaking a success. I believe I am right in saying that our Editor would be glad to hear from any of our members who would be willing to send up at regular intervals accurate notes of migration, interesting occurrences, etc., from their districts.

With regard to our member the Hon. Mrs. Somerset Ward's queries: The habit of the Coal Tit of breeding under the roots of trees is a recognised one. The Rev. F. O. Morris says of this species: "The nest is placed in the hole of a tree . . . . even in the hollows about the roots, sometimes in a hole of a wall, or of a bank, or in that of a mouse, rat or mole." The only other species likely to be mistaken for the Coal Tit is the Marsh Tit, and I have never personally come across an instance of the latter breeding under ground.

The account of the Kestrel attacking a Heron is very interesting. The Kestrel is the least courageous of all our Hawks and the Heron is a formidable adversary which even the lordly Peregrine respects. Peregrines, of course, used to be employed for taking Herons in Holland but they were only trained with the utmost difficulty to this flight. I have only once seen a Peregrine strike a Heron, and that was a trained Falcon belonging to my friend the late Major C. H. Fisher. The Falcon was flown at a Grouse on a moor near Hexham in Northumberland. A Heron happened to cross the line of flight and the Falcon pursued it and twice struck it, but did not succeed in bringing it to the ground. I think the Kestrel must have had a nest in the vicinity or it would never have dared to attack a bird so much larger than itself.

W. E. Teschemaker.

RINGS FOR LOVEBIRDS, Etc.

Sir,—Will some member kindly oblige me with the name and address of makers of rings, suitable for ringing young Black-cheeked Lovebirds and the like? I have applied to one or two manufacturers, but they have nothing suitable. I feel sure some of our members must have used such things and shall be grateful if they will inform me where I can obtain same.

Hayward W. Mathias.

The Month's Arrivals.

AT THE ZOO: This month I shall mostly deal with those arriving at the Zoo, which have been fairly numerous and notable:—

Birds of Paradise, etc.: Early this year Messrs. Stalker and Frost went out on a collecting expedition on behalf of Sir W. Ingram, who is desirous of establishing these birds on his estate in Trinidad. About the middle of this month Mr. Frost arrived at Southampton with a huge consignment of rare and interesting species. From this series, two Greater B. of P. (*P. apoda*), eight King B. of P. (*C. regius*), five Manucodes, some beautiful and rare Lories and Lorikeets, and single specimens of the Great Black Cockatoo, Javan Dayal Bird, Flame-breasted Flower-pecker, etc.

The Birds of Paradise are well-known species and do not call for further comment in these notes; they will form a welcome addition to the Society's already fine series of these regal birds.

The Flame-breasted Flower-pecker (*Dicæum ignicolle*). This is new to the collection; a charming little bird, lively and vivacious, and of a fragile appearance. It is a very handsome species, dark rich-blue above; scarlet breast with remainder of under surface whitish-buff. I was a delighted observer for some considerable time of its interesting tit-like deportment and confiding demeanour. Its food consists of insects, fruit, buds, seeds and the nectar of flowers. Mr. Goodchild is preparing a coloured drawing, which will appear in a near issue, when this delightful species will be fully described. Hab.: Aru Islands.

Black Manucode (*M. atra*). A somewhat unattractive species, with apparently nothing but its rarity to commend it to foreign bird keepers; as if to further enhance its unattractiveness it has a very monotonous call note.

Lineated Barbets (*Cyanops lineata*). These are really charming birds, though not so brilliant as many of this genus. The brightest areas of colour are the wing, olive-green, and the bare skin round the eyes which is yellow; the remainder of the plumage being greyish and brown, much striated with dark brown.

Spotted Oriole (*Oriolus maculatus*). A very attractive bird, though not so beautiful as some of the commoner species.

Lilac-crowned Fruit Pigeon (*Ptilopus coronulatus*). When it has recovered its condition this promises to be a very handsome species. It was not easy to observe as it kept up against top of cage in the shadow. I made the following brief notes of its colouration: Above green; crown lilac with margin of bright yellow across nape; face pearl-grey; bare skin round eyes grey; breast brownish-olive-green; abdomen yellowish; bill greyish-horn, pale yellow at tip. Hab.: Aru Islands.

Brown-tailed White-eyes (*Zosterops brunneicaudata*). New to the collection. Not so brightly coloured as the better known species, but a typical *Zosterops* and the combination of dull olive, subdued yellow and their brownish tails and flights is most pleasing; they are as yet but in poor plumage.

Black-headed Tanager (*Orchestesticus ater*). In form it closely resembles a *Tanagra* and is of the most sombre Tanagers I have seen; yet like many more sombre hued birds, cannot by any means be designated plain. Its principal colouration is greyish, with black head. I do not remember to have previously seen a living specimen of this species.

Goliath Heron (*Ardea goliath*). I was much interested in this species, which is the largest of the Heron family; it is 16 inches longer than the Common Heron (*A. cinerea*); which measure 52″ and 36″ respectively. The two specimens here described are located in the Gulls' Aviary and were presented by Mr. F. Burgoyne. Description: Above slate-grey; head, crest and major portion of under surface ruddy-brown; throat and gullet white; the long, loose plumes on the front of the neck are white on the outside and black beneath. This species was successfully bred last year at the Amsterdam Zoological Gardens.

Grey-backed Ouzel (*Merula carbonaria*). I was much interested in this species, it is smaller than the English Blackbird; as its name indicates it has a grey back, and differs from the Grey-winged Ouzel (*Merula boulboul*) in having the legs as well as the bill yellow.

The Monkey Eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*). This is the first living specimen to reach Europe. In its native wilds it preys principally on monkeys, but during the voyage to this country it was fed on chicken. The bird has a fine appearance, looking really ferocious in some attitudes and is well worth observation. Above it is mostly rich-brown and below is pale cream-buff. The long pointed feathers of the sides of the head, forming a crest, are light buff with dark centres. W. T. P.

* * *

Specimens of the Indian Nuthatch and Maroon Oriole have come into the possession of one of our members. W. T. P.

* * *

Umbrella Bird (*Cephalopterus ornatus*). This is quite an unique arrival; of sombre hue, but with a fine and striking appearance, and is a quaint and strangely adorned species. It is entirely black, with quite a large expanded crest of incurved feathers, which have bare shafts and a long feathered wattle hanging longitudinally over the breast. W. T. P.

* * *

There has been during the past month, and are at the present time, quite a number of rare, uncommon, or interesting species on the market. Unfortunately I have been unable to go the round of the dealers, so I can only give names as they have reached me, and the pressure upon our space this month only permits of a mere list being given:—

Black and Amber Troupial
Red-shouldered Troupial
Virginian Cardinals
Black-throated Cardinals
Ruddy Cowbirds
Yellow-shouldered Cowbirds
Green Glossy Starlings
Chopi Starlings
Golden Orioles
Maroon Orioles
Grey-headed Yellow Finches
Rose Finches
Ruficauda Finches
Long-tailed Grass-finches
Parrot Finches
Parson Finches
Black-throated Finches
Indian Olive Finches
Sydney Waxbills
Hooded Siskins
Black-capped Siskins
Black-headed Sibias
Silver-eared Mesias
Violet Tanagers
Pectoral Tanagers
Scarlet Tanagers
Archbishop Tanagers
Blue Sugar-birds
Black-headed Sugar-birds
Verditer Flycatcher
Red-crested Flycatcher
White Eye-browed Flycatcher
American Mocking Birds
Mexican Blue Thrush
White-capped Black Redstart
Sulphury Tyrants
White-crested Jay Thrushes
Pileated Jays
White Jackdaws
Blue Rollers
Peruvian Green Jays
Burmeister's Caryamas
Pheasant Cuckoos
Rufous-tailed Guans
Demoiselle Cranes
Hoopoes
Emus
Triangular-spotted Pigeon
Bleeding-heart Dove
Blue-bonnet Parrakeets
Barnard Parrakeets
Pennant Parrakets
Canary-winged Parrakeets
Tui Parrakeets
Tovi Parrakeets
All Green Parrakeets
Red-sided Eclectus Parrot
Brown-cheeked Conures
Grand Parrot
Blue and Yellow Macaws
Military Macaws
Illiger's Macaws
Scaly-breasted Lorikeets

W. T. P.

Post Mortem Reports.

(*Vide Rules*).

For replies by post, a fee of 2/6 *must be sent;* this regulation will not be broken under any condition.

RED-FACED LOVEBIRD. (Bernard Hollins). Cause of death, pneumonia.

Cock BENGALESE. (R. W. Woodall, M.R.C.S.) Inflammation of bowels and pneumonia, probably caused by a chill.

————. (Miss Eleanor Brooksbank). Cause of death, injury to skull.

GOLDFINCH, mule. (Dr. George Masters). Cause of death, enteritis.

HENRY GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Further Notes on the Black-winged Lory.

(*Eos cyanogenys*).

By WALTER GOODFELLOW.

Having had six living examples of this Lory in my possession at different times, I may perhaps be able to add a few further particulars of interest about their habits in captivity and in a wild state,

The first living example I ever saw was in Makassar in 1903. A Dutch official there had one fastened by its leg in the usual way to a swing on his verandah, along with Cockatoos and various other Lories. The house stood a good distance back from the road, but in passing I could just see enough of the bird through the shrubs to know that it was a species new to me. Many times I purposely passed that way, always hoping to see someone about from whom I could ask permission to go in and view the birds closer. As many days passed without success, and my visit was drawing to an end, I went at last boldly up to the house and found only native servants at home, who plainly resented my intrusion, and appeared to think I had come to carry off the birds during their owner's absence. However, I had time to identify the one I most wanted to see, and had even dared to hope I might have a chance of purchasing.

From the Celebes I went to the Moluccas, and on the island of Ternate I came across another of these birds hanging under the eaves of a native's house. This one became mine without any further to do. Later on, when it became known that I wanted to buy Lories, I think every native who owned any brought them along to me, and out of all these I secured two more Black-winged ones: so possibly my three were all that were in Ternate at that time. These I kept for five months before they were sent home to England by a man from Sydney, but, along with many more rare birds, they died during the voyage, solely I believe from want of attention, These three birds lived chiefly on bananas, and always enjoyed the best of health, bathing regularly every day. In Australia I tried them with many kinds of fruit, but bananas and oranges were the only kinds they would eat.*

The home of this species appears to be the North Coast of Dutch New Guinea, though the Brit. Mus. Catalogue does not mention its coming from the mainland, naming only islands in Geelvink Bay. The only part I have met with it is around the group of coast villages called Manoekwarri (formerly Doreh) where Dr. A. R. Wallace passed many months some fifty odd years ago. This is on the N.W. shore of Geelvink Bay. During one of my visits there, certain trees bearing bright scarlet flowers were absolutely alive with them as long as the flowers lasted. Probably at any other season not one would be found in that district at all. All over New Guinea I have remarked the same thing with other Lories. Three years ago I obtained a living Dusky, or White-backed Lory as I have heard it called recently. *Eos fuscata* on the West Coast, which up to that time I had never met with in a wild state, or, as a matter of fact, in captivity either. Last year, in the Astrolabe Mountains of S.E. British New Guinea, I shot a single specimen, the only one I saw during a stay of several months. In passing through the same country this year, on my way to the Owen Stanley Range, I saw many hundreds of them. Every day they were there in the same flowering trees, from early morning until nearly mid-day, when they retired for a siesta to the shadier jungle near by, returning to feed again shortly before four o'clock. Three months later, on returning to the coast by the same route, I neither saw nor heard a sound of one in that district. The flowers being finished they had probably gone to another part of the country entirely.

Three more Black-winged Lories came into my possession nearly four years ago, and were all procured at Manoekwarri on my way to and from Humbolt's Bay. The first of these, a very fine female, as I found it out to be later, was the finest specimen I have seen. A native brought it to the steamer to sell, tied by its foot to the side of his canoe. When the bargain was completed it was passed up on board fastened to a fishing line, clinging on by its beak and feet. This bird soon became extraordinarily tame, and was the best talker of any species of Lory I have known, and quite without any attempt on our part to teach it. It spoke both English and Malay and always called me "Papa," which, strange to say, it never applied to anyone else when they went near it. I expect my Indian servant taught it to say this, as it was a word it could never have heard used. It also imitated the calls of many other birds: the very irritating notes of some Honey Eaters, which frequented the casuarina trees around the native house I lived in; also the screech of Eclectus Parrots, which were constantly flying overhead. Wherever we stayed it quickly learnt the names of the natives who were employed about the places; and, later on, when it travelled with me a great deal by steamer among the Malay Islands, it picked up all manner of native talk, besides constantly fooling the boson and crew with its most perfect imitation of the officer's whistle. It was also a great acrobat, seldom quiet for long together.

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* At this time I had not discovered the value of condensed milk as a food for them.—W. G.

At Humbolt's Bay my house was perpetually invaded by native visitors who came from far and near to see the only white man there. They always squatted on the floor of the verandah under the Lory's swing, so its great amusement was to let itself down to the full length of its chain and pull the nodding feathers or flowers from their frizzy mops of hair. After living and travelling with me for eight months in the East, it died at sea a few days after I finally left the Aru Islands for home. It had been ailing for some weeks and had completely ceased all its chatter. I found its death was due to tapeworms, which seem to be very prevalent among New Guinea birds. My two Indians were deeply attached to this bird and were every bit as sorry as I was when it died, and still speak about it whenever I see them in Singapore.

Before this died I had secured two more of the same kind on my way back through Manoekwarri. One of these, an old bird, flew overboard shortly afterwards and escaped to land as we were nearing the island of Saparoera, through some Malay passengers interfering with the cage doors. The other one was quite a young bird in the rather mottled phase of plumage, and is the one Mr. Brook now has in his aviaries. All these three were fed solely on sweet condensed milk diluted with water. At one time I used to think this a perfect food for Lories of all kinds for they take to it instantly they are caught and prefer it to anything else. Latterly, however, I have come to the conclusion that it is not good as a permanent food, at any rate for all species, although I still believe it would suit some, the Yellow Streaked Lory (*Chalcopsittacus scintillatus*) for instance. I think Mr. Brook has finally solved the rather vexed question for Lories' food by adding a certain proportion of barley water to the milk. Still I should always use plain milk for them abroad and on the voyage home, because of the ease with which it is carried and prepared.

I suppose I have had under my care at one time or another every species of Lory, which is brought to this country alive, from the large *Chalcopsittacus* to the minute *Hypocharmosyna wilhelminæ* the smallest of the whole groupe, and as long as they have lived with me milk has formed their sole diet. I never limit them as to quantity, always giving them as much as they can take. Some improve immensely in colour on this, Stella's Lory (*Charmosyna stellæ*) in particular. In the Hoddom Castle aviaries (where by-the-bye is perhaps the finest collection of Lories ever brought together, containing many unique species and the only ones of their kind ever brought to Europe alive) it would be quite impossible to see birds in finer condition. One aviary, containing a flock of a dozen Stellas, is a sight worth going far to see, and never in a wild state have I seen these birds anything like so rich a colour. The same might also be said of the birds in the adjoining aviary which is given up to a flock of, I think, twelve Fair Lories (*Charmosynopsis pulchella*) almost a small edition of the Stellas in colouring and shape. Four of these I brought back this year and when they were turned out with the others of last year, their pale appearance in comparison was quite marked, although they had already become brighter since they were caught, which could be seen by the skins I brought at the same time.

When we read of the nasty messes which were recommended for Lories some years ago, and are still advocated by some. I think it is no wonder this lovely group of birds has not been so popular with aviculturists as they deserve. In point of tameness and amusing ways, if not in brilliancy of colour also, no other members of the Parrot family can at all compare with them. True some kinds are excessively noisy, and perhaps all are really more suited for aviaries than cages. Still, I see no reason why they should not be kept as cage pets also, provided that the bottom of the cage is covered with peat litter, which acts as a deodorizer. I remember a London dealer once telling me that canary seed was the best food for Lories, and that after they were once used to it they lived for years. I can no more believe that canary seed is a suitable diet for them than I can believe corn would be good for Eagles. I don't doubt but what some may be induced to eat it after a time, but we all know that some birds get depraved tastes in captivity, and eat unnatural things. Nature certainly never intended Lories with brush tongues to eat seed, and in the crops of all the many species I have shot, I have never found anything but clear honey. There are various reasons though why honey as we eat it should not be given to them in captivity. That milk is a good substitute for this is proved, I think, by Mr. Brook having successfully bred the rare Black Lory, *Chalcopsittacus ater*, this year, which I have always considered a somewhat delicate species, although I am sure Mr. Brook would say it was just the opposite.

I should certainly be nervous about giving mealworms to any Lory, especially if it had been used to a liquid diet, which might render them liable to fits if they took anything solid after it. The natives of the Moluccan Islands without exception feed all Lories on more or less sloppy boiled rice with an occasional piece of banana. Judging by their short lives even this appears to be too solid a diet, and half paralyzed birds are quite a common sight, the results of fits to which they all eventually succumb.

Judging from the plate, Mr. Millsum's Black-winged Lory does not appear to have been anything like so rich a coloured specimen as Mr. Brook's. Or it might be that it is a difficult colour for an artist to reproduce. The bluish purple across the face is not so intense nor the crown so dark a red. This latter I call quite a claret red and it forms a striking contrast to the pinkish scarlet of the lower parts of the face. The inner sides of the scarlet wing feathers are yellow, which looks very pretty when the wings are extended in flight or play. If I remember rightly I was unable to distinguish much difference between the sexes, but I think the females are slightly less brilliant. The young are very brownish, the feathers on breast and crown of head being edged with that colour. The black on the wings is also of a rusty hue with some green reflections, and the thighs are quite of a dull green. It is really a difficult matter to locate these or any other Red Lories in the trees when they are feeding, even if one should be right under them, as their plumage harmonises so well with the large clusters of scarlet flowers* which they seem to favour. It is only when they move that they betray their whereabouts, or when suddenly alarmed. Then they all rise simultaneously with loud shrieks, and instead of there having been a few only, as one may may have imagined, it is found that sixty or seventy or more were there all the time. The Black-winged Lory is fond of company and my experience has been that they may be trusted with any other species even when much smaller than themselves. It is strange they are not more often brought to this country, as I think it would always be possible to find one or two in Ternate, which place is in touch with the outer world. All the Malay, Chinese and Arab traders who have the North New Guinea trade in their hands reside there and usually bring various live birds back with them from the mainland.

The Malays call all species of lories "Casturi," which simply means musk, owing to the strong musky odour all these birds possess when wild, and which they retain for some time in captivity. I have found it much more pronounced in some species than others. The Dusky Lory being particularly pungent.

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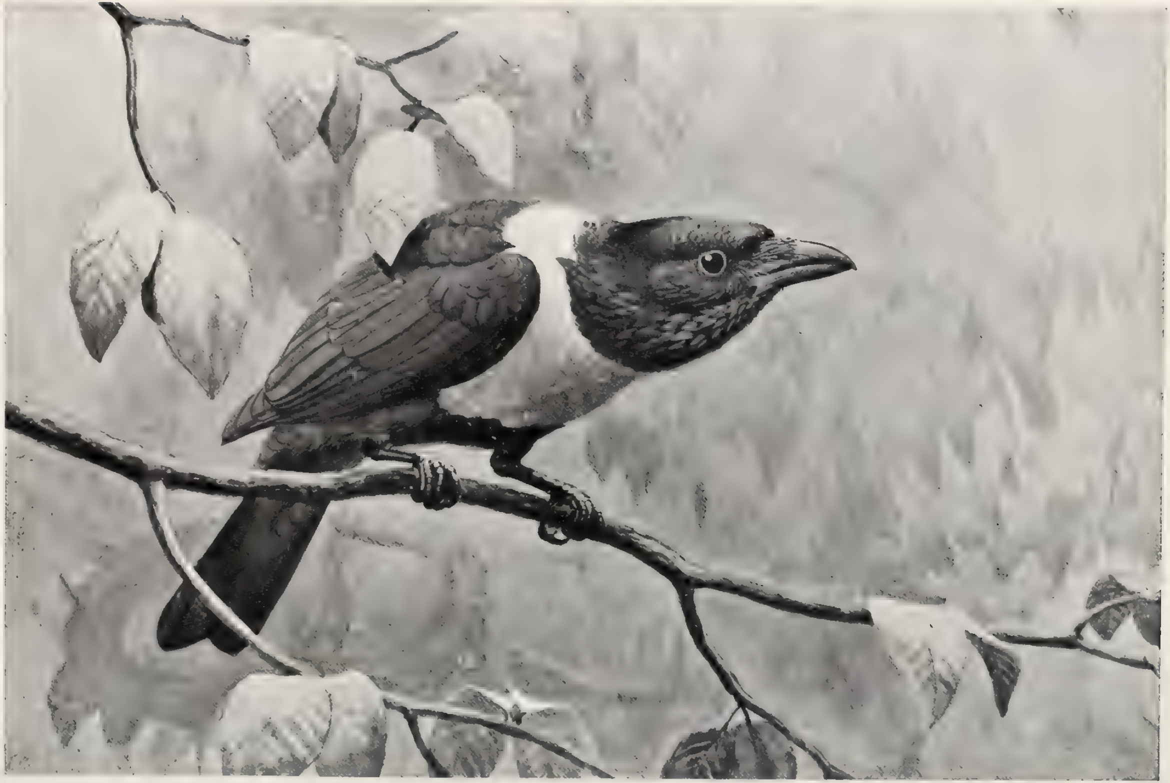
* I do not know if it has been remarked before how scarlet predominates above all other colours in the flowers on the trees, bushes and creepers of the Papuan regions with the exception of the Aru Islands which have no red Lories. Here, their place is taken by the green coloured (*Chalcopsittacus scintillatus*) which feed and live in the dense mangrove swamps which form such a feature of these islands, and with which their colours so beautifully assimilate. W.G.



The Pied Crow (*Corvus scapulatus*).

Drawn from life by H. Goodchild.

The Birds of Gambia.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

(*Continued from page* 180).

CORVIDÆ.

Corvus scapulatus. PIED CROW.

Range. Practically the whole of Africa; Madagascar. (*Sh.*)

A black and white Crow about the size of a Carrion Crow and marked like a Magpie. The sexes are similar except that the hen is smaller than the cock. They are extremely common in the Gambia, where rarely a day passes without seeing one or two at least, except in Bathurst during the latter half of the rains, when they appear to leave the town entirely; at any rate from about August (after the young have left the nest) till the middle of October, I have never seen any Crows in Bathurst itself, although elsewhere they are just as common. For the greater part of the year they go about in pairs, but assemble towards evening in small parties to roost in company. In April and May, however, they are seen in large flocks, especially near the sea and mangrove swamps, where they at all times feed largely on dead shellfish and offal cast up on the shore. At this time, too, they are very noisy and often interfere sadly with the midday siesta, when a party selects the neighbourhood of one's hut for a midday meeting for courting purposes, which consist chiefly of loud cawings and clumsy ærial gambols. They begin to breed in May, making large stick nests in tall trees, generally the Silk-cottons (Eriodendron). In the young at first most of the white feathers have dusky edges, which gives the breast and back a mottled appearance. Like all the Crows these birds make most amusing pets, either in a cage or loose with a clipped wing; I have had two at different times, both of which were blown out of their nests by a tornado and brought to me when nearly able to fly. The first one, which I took home in 1902, is still alive and flourishing at the Zoo.

Native names: Kànah (Mandingo); Bàkhon (Joloff).

Cryptorhina afra. SENEGAL PIE.

Range. West and North East Africa. (*Sh.*)

This bird, which is commonly called "the Jackdaw" by the English in Bathurst and "Pie-pie" by the native boys, looks very like and in habits much resembles a large black Starling with a comparatively long graduated tail. The plumage is glossy black with a dullish green sheen; the legs are black, as is also the bill in the male, but the latter in the female is red with a black tip. The length of the male is about eighteen inches, of the female about an inch smaller. The irides are the bird's most beautiful feature, being a lovely violet-purple changing towards the periphery into a clear red-brown, the whole somehow suggesting a dark-coloured opal. They are extremely common everywhere, going about in small parties of six or ten; in Bathurst they live chiefly on what they can pick up in the streets and yards, or on what is cast up by the sea, but in the Protectorate they are usually seen in attendance on the flocks of sheep and goats, to which they are almost as much attached as the Oxpeckers are to the cattle. They hop about among them, ride on their backs, while searching their coats for ticks, and generally act as friends and attendants on their four-footed companions. If disturbed they fly to the nearest tree with shrill squeaks (almost the word "creek") which are distinctly shriller in the female than the male; from this post of vantage they scold at the intruder, whether man, dog, or other animal until the coast is clear or they have satisfied themselves that he is not dangerous, when they flop down again to their original occupation. When wild they are very tame and, in fact, almost impudent, and evidently appreciate the society of man and beast. I have had one or two in captivity, where they took to a diet of raw meat readily, but something has always occurred to prevent my getting one home. I should have mentioned above that besides offal and what insects they find among the herds, they feed largely on the bigger insects, such as locusts and beetles, and are always to be found with other birds hunting the insects driven up by bush-fires.

Native names: Chacha fino (=black chatterer) and Sairo, or Sammasairo, (Mandingo); Khalakhal, (Joloff).

DICRURIDÆ.

Dicrurus afer. FORK-TAILED DRONGO.

Range. Nearly the whole of Africa.

The Drongoes are black birds about nine inches long with definitely but not deeply forked tails, which are plentiful everywhere and at all seasons in the Gambia. They are commonly seen in pairs and are very lively, active and noticeable birds with a loud whistling note and a scolding chatter when excited. A pair generally haunts a certain tree or clump on the outskirts of which they sit or flit about, taking short flights into the air or to the ground after insects. They are very plucky little fellows and are always ready to attack Rollers, Hawks or other large birds which trespass on what they may happen to consider their domain. The only nest I have seen contained young; it was placed about nine feet from the ground in one of the clefts formed by the bases of the branches which sheath the trunk of one of the smaller palms.

The plumage is entirely glossy black, though the under surface in many individuals (probably the younger ones) has a hoary appearance, due to many of the feathers having white tips. The iris is bright red, the bill and feet black.

Mandingo names are Séoro-séo, which is also applied to other small black birds, such as the Black Flycatcher, and Sonka-sonka (=quarreller), a name also given to the Babblers.

D. ludwigii. THE SQUARE TAILED DRONGO is, I believe, also recorded from Gambia, but I do not know it.

LANIIDÆ.

Corvinella corvina. LONG-TAILED SHRIKE.

Range. Senegambia. (*Brit. Museum Hand-List*).

Very common in the Gambia. Parties of six to twelve are seen hopping about the bushes and flying with rather feeble flight from place to place in their search for insects. They are among the most regular attendants at bush fires, and when an antheap is broken down are always the first birds to appear to feast on its inhabitants and their eggs.

It is a plainly coloured bird with a long tail, (total length 11½ inches, tail 6½ inches), and short round wings; its plumage consists of buffs and brown of various shades, paler below than above. The bill is yellow, the legs brown (or dull olive in younger birds); the iris greenish brown.

Mandingo name, Se-seo.

Fiscus smithi.

Range. Senegambia to Congo. (*H.L.*) *

A bird rather like the English Red-backed Shrike but very dark brown above, which I think I have occasionally seen here.

Lanius pomeranius. WOODCHAT.

Range. Central and South Europe. Senegambia and North Aussaland in winter. (*H.L.*)

L. nubicus. MASKED SHRIKE.

Range. S.E. Europe to Persia. Senegambia (winter). (*H.L.*)

In January and February I often see Shrikes which I am sure are either Woodchat or Masked Shrikes, though I do not know which. They are always single and usually seen sitting on the compound fence or on some tall corn-stalk on the look-out for insects.

Nilaus afer.

Range. N.W., N.E., and Equatorial Africa. (*H.L.*)

A stoutly-built, short-tailed bird, about 5½ inches long. Above it is brown, below whitish; the crown and a line from the eye backwards down side of neck black, rest of face whitish. Bill bluish black, feet lead-coloured.

Not very common in Gambia, but to be met with in the bush in various places, generally singly.

Laniarius barbarus. BARBARY BUSH-SHRIKE.

Range. Senegambia to Nigeria. (*H.L.*)

Our handsomest Shrike. Forehead and crown yellow-ochre, rest of upper surface deep black; under surface from chin to vent and under tail-coverts, which are light brown, brilliant scarlet. Sexes alike.

Quite common in Gambia all the year round. They frequent, (practically always in pairs) the outskirts of thick bush, particularly along the edges of the swamps, where their striking scarlet and black livery shows up wonderfully against the deep green and catches the eye at once as the birds skulk about the undergrowth or flit from bush to bush, uttering their sharp disyllabic call-note, "chirk-chirk." Besides this call they have a short whistling song of a few notes.

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* *H. L.* here and in future—the British Museum Hand-list of Birds.

Mandingo name: Kudúng-kudúng.

L. turaii.

Range. Senegambia to Portuguese Guinea. (*H.L.*)

Another Bush-Shrike, the range of which must include the Gambia, though I do not know the bird. It is black above and pale buff with a slight pink tinge below, where its relation is scarlet.

Dryoscopus gambensis. PUFF-BACK SHRIKE.

Range. Senegambia to Angola. (*H.L.*)

I often see—always in pairs in fairly thick bush—and have once or twice shot birds which I take to belong to this species, but although my birds agree fairly well with the description of *D. gambensis,* their measurements have always been much too short, so that I am not certain yet whether I know this Shrike or not.

In this species the sexes differ; in the male the upper surface, wings and tail are brown, the under parts white tinged with grey. The feathers of the rump are long, white and downy, and form the "puffback." In the female the upper parts are grey with dusky stripes on the head and brown wings and tail; below she is buff and white; the fluffy back feathers are not so long as those of the male.

Telephonus senegalus. BLACK-HEADED BUSH-SHRIKE.

Range. North-East and Tropical Africa.

Very common in the Gambia. Always in open country, where it spends a great part of its time on the ground or in the low scrub, in which it skulks and manages in a wonderful way to hide its rather conspicuous plumage by carefully keeping a trunk or leafy patch between any observer and itself, until actually driven out, when it will fly, still keeping low down in shelter or taking long flying hops along the ground, to another patch of bush. It is always found in pairs, and when one leaves a bush it will be almost immediately followed by its mate. It is a beautiful singer (probably the best we have in Gambia) especially during, and just after, the rains. The song is heard most frequently and at its best in the early mornings and late evenings and consists of a long sweet strain of flutey notes, very distinctive when heard but very difficult to remember or whistle. To me it seems quite equal to the Thrush's song, and rather reminds me of what I remember of that of the Shâma.

Native names are: Ndoio (Mandingo) and Ndokh (Joloff).

Native accounts describe this bird as being so wrapped up in the beauty of its voice, that it shuts its eyes when singing and becomes so absorbed in its song that it can be easily caught in the hand; needless to say, however, I have never met anyone who had actually done or seen this done.

Above it is a rich brownish ochre, below a very pale buff; the tail is black with white spots near the ends of the feathers, which are very conspicuous when the bird flies. The crown is black, the eyebrow white or fawn and there is a black streak below the eye, the whole giving the effect of a black and white striped head. Length about eight inches.

(To be continued).

Uvœan Parrakeet.

Nymphicus uvœensis.

By the Hon. and Rev. Canon DUTTON.

My experience of these parrakeets is very limited. The first specimen I had was bought from Abrahams many years ago. I do not think it was healthy when it was sent me and it died in a day or two.

A few years ago Mr. Hamlyn sent me eight. They seemed well enough for me to keep them, but one by one they sickened off and died. I think that " no specific cause of death " was returned by the prosector. But it was possibly septicæmia. I can hardly think, looking at the shape of their bills, that they are birds that want soft food. The shape suggests grubs rather than that. Abrahams recommended mealworms for the one he sold me. It ate about one. The others would not look at them. I think we want to know more about their food in New Caledonia.

My experience is altogether insufficient to go upon, but though they have kept them at the Gardens for certainly twelve months, they have never kept them much longer, and they are too expensive for a parson who has parochial claims to experiment upon.

Birds in and about the Station (Bakloh).

By Capt. G. A. Perreau, F.Z.S.

Shortly after Mr. Dewar commenced his interesting series of articles on aviary birds he had met in freedom, our energetic Editor asked me if I would write a series in continuation, bringing the Hill birds in. I light-heartedly assented, but now find the task not as easy as I anticipated. Times are strenuous, the standard set is high, and many of our most interesting birds, the summer visitors who breed here have been written about by Mr. Dewar. However, our worthy Editor told that me the only fault he could find in Mr. Dewar's articles was brevity. That is probably the one fault he will not be able to find with mine, I find it very difficult to stop when once "off" on a favourite bird. So I hope our members will forgive me for not leaving out birds already treated by Mr. Dewar.

In a series it is much better to take things in order, and purpose doing so after this, but I have in hand, and practically ready, some observations on the White-eye, and before me lies our Editor's third reminder, nicely worded but rightly insistent, hoping that my first instalment is on the way.

Bakloh is a small station on the edge of the Chamba Himalayas nearly 5,000 feet high, above the foot-hills and below the deodar forest zone. Both these zones are easily accessible in a day's "walk" (as opposed to "march") and add largely to the list of local avi-fauna, but I propose to deal chiefly with the birds of the middle zone. As to climate, in connection with aviculture perhaps the most useful way of putting it would be to say that in my opinion even our summer visitors would be quite safe and would thrive in an out-door sheltered aviary all the year round in England, our spring and autumn migrants would probably be still hardier as to cold, and that our winter visitors would probably be harmed by artificial heat. Permanent residents could also stand any amount of cold, with exercise of course.

THE INDIAN WHITE-EYE (*Zosterops palpebrosa*).

I would first refer members to Mr. Dewar's excellent little sketch (B.N. Vol. VIII. page 9). I endorse his eulogies, merely adding that the clutch up here is usually three, sometimes two, and that the bird is not purely insectivorous, of which more later. I also think that the old pairs keep together in the flocks.

They stay with us all the year round, but I fancy their number is increased in the summer by visitors from lower down. I have never met them higher up among the deodars. They nest in May and June and I have seen quite young ones late in July ; in some cases they certainly rear two broods in the year. In winter, especially when snow is on the ground, their staple article of diet seems to be wild medlar. In fact I should say that all the year round their staple food is fruit ; wild figs and cherries, grapes, peaches, plums, wild blackberries (which are yellow by the way) are all favourites. In their season there is hardly a tree in the compound which does not show White-eyes feeding on the ripe fruit.

They are certainly suckers as may be seen by giving them bread and milk (sloppy). I have often seen them hard at work at the inside of certain shrub flowers where the eye could discern no insects, I am sure insects were not the attraction. They are also what one might call " peck-and-swallowers " too. Give him a bit of hardish apple or cake and you will see large lumps being hammered off by his sturdy little beak, subsequently to vanish down his diminutive red lane. Of course he is very fond of insects too, and it is marvellous to watch him dispose of a moth or grasshopper that would give a Liothrix some trouble.

I first got White-eyes in Bombay in 1901 and brought them here. I had them nearly two years ; they vanished with many other birds during my absence in Chitral. They showed signs of nesting the second year, and were always uncommonly fit. Their staple diet was atta (course flour), and bread and milk. During my absences, which were frequent, they got nothing else except a few stray insects that were foolish enough to enter their aviary, which was in a verandah and not tempting to insects. In the winter insects are not given to straying and for certainly one period of two months they could have had none at all. When I was in the Station they had a liberal, if irregular, supply of both insects and fruit. I was then collecting butterflies and moths in an amateur way and did a bit of breeding. Many a fat pupa of atlas, moon, and hawk moth was sacrificed to them.

The little shriek of delight they gave as they settled on my hand to suck the broken pupa was ample repayment.

I got four more in Calcutta in 1904 (I think) but they came out of a crowded cage, were never really bright and succumbed to three months' hardship in camp. I have foumd them, till this year, difficult to trap; lime was disastrous and was discarded; my baits of fruit and insects were ignored. I cannot say I tried very hard as at the time when I was best equipped for trapping I was not keen on trapping White-eyes. This year I tried some fine "drop-nets" I got last year from Mr. Frost, and was very successful.

The following letter which I am sending to the Bombay Natural History Society, though not strictly avicultural, may prove of interest.

SEASONAL CHANGE OF PLUMAGE OF THE INDIAN WHITE-EYE.

"In May 1901 I caught a White-eye which was visiting my newly-built aviary to talk with some tame White-eyes I had. He had a bright chestnut forehead. I did not think much of it at the time as my book knowledge of this species was but slight, though well acquainted with it alive, both wild and in captivity. He died soon. Not long after, I looked up the book and was astonished to find no mention of a White-eye with chestnut forehead nor of a seasonal change of plumage. Till this year (1909) no other similarly coloured ones have been observed by me, though I must confess that I did not particularly look out for them, and that in some years I had no opportunity of observing White-eyes at all.

"About mid-April this year I noticed several with chestnut foreheads, and pointed this out to my bird friends in the Regiment. Major Sealy, a very keen observer and field naturalist, and Mr. Kennedy, a fellow aviculturist. Wanting a couple of pairs for my aviary I set a "drop-net" near a flowering shrub the birds visited and soon had a bird. I was rather disappointed to find the forehead only rusty coloured. I put it down as a hen, correct but a fluke. Her mate (or rather a mate) was caught the next day, and he had a fine chestnut forehead. The hen died at once; it is a bad season to "meat off" in, and I determined to wait for others till autumn if the cock died. He did not die, so about 1st May I set the net again and caught ten in under two hours and could have caught more. All these and the others flying about uncaught had bright chestnut foreheads. In fact about this time I saw none that were not coloured in this way. In plumage the sexes were indistinguishable, but I found that I had five pairs. With the aid of a four-compartment wire cage, I separated out two true pairs and let go the rest. I am pretty certain that these birds had not then started nesting, though there were several nests lower in the station.

"I left the station to go further up the hill, where there are no White-eyes, on 26th May; by that time I noticed my White-eyes were losing their chestnut. I returned on 6th June. Mine had lost all colour and the wild ones I saw had lost theirs, but Major Sealy told me that he had lately seen some "coloured" ones about. I went up the hill again on the 8th June returning on the 20th June. I made a special search for coloured ones without success. A few days later Mr. Kennedy showed me a nest with young in his compound; we watched the old birds feeding the young from a very short distance. They were normally coloured.

"My five are as fit and as happy as their wild relations, but they remain common or garden Indian White-eyes (*Zosterops palpebrosa*) and charming as they are, of no special interest to anyone but myself. Still I have hopes that they will attempt breeding next year.

"Of course I know that to make a good record one ought to kill and send down a skin. I plead laziness with a dash of sentiment. I make the record, such as it is, as several things strike me as curious about it. The bird is a very common one; why has such a change not been recorded before? I believe it has not been recorded. How was it that I noticed it in 1901 and then not again till 1909? I certainly did not keep a special look out for it, but the chestnut is very noticeable and I set to work to catch my 1901 bird on that account. Both sexes don the chestnut, but keep it such a short time. Men (and women) have been known to drop fine raiment soon after matrimony. Can one apply a similar reasoning? Is it a species in the making?"

(To be continued.)

The Birds of India.

By Douglas Dewar, I.C.S.

[A Lecture delivered before the Indian Section of the Royal Society of Arts, and reproduced by kind permission of the Author and R.S.A.]

From the Journal of the Royal Society of Arts.

(*Continued from page* 104.)

The Rosy Starling.

The Rose-coloured Starling (*Pastor roseus*) spends the greater part of the year in India, although it does not breed there. The bird is said to commit "great depredations" in the corn fields, and, since it collects in immense flocks preparatory to migration, the charge is well founded. But we must not forget that the Rosy Starling feeds also on grass seeds, insects, and wild fruit, especially the mulberry, which grows without cultivation in India. In the United Provinces it is called the Mulberry bird on account of its fondness for that fruit. Chesney states that in Persia it is known as the Locust bird. This name speaks for itself, and shows that the bird is by no means an unmixed evil. On the evidence at present available I do not think we are justified in setting down the Rosy Pastor as a foe to the husbandman. It should be added that many natives of India eat it.

Finches.

As regards the finches, we may neglect the Amadavats (*Sporaeginthus amandava*) and the other tiny species, which do not devour anything so large as a grain of corn. The Weaver Birds (*Ploceus baya*), however, eat wheat, and Messrs. Haagner and Ivy I notice state that the African species do damage to the crops. But it is my opinion that in India Weaver Birds subsist, by preference, on the seeds of the various species of tall grasses so common in that country. I do not know from observation on what they feed their young, but, from the fact that they nest in the rainy season, I infer that the young are reared on insect food. It is, therefore, my belief that Weaver Birds ought to be numbered among the friends of the Indian husbandman. Their relatives, the Yellow Corn Buntings, near relations of the English Yellowhammer, may prove to be his foes, since they do not breed in India. They visit Hindustan in large flocks in winter, and levy toll on the ripening corn, but they, like the Weaver Birds, appear to eat this only when grass seed is not available. Moreover, it is not improbable that they devour insects. Thus the case against them is "not proven."

The Rose-finch (*Carpodacus erythrinus*) is another winter visitor which feeds upon the grain crops, but it rarely occurs in sufficient numbers to do much damage, and, as is the case with its relatives, it seems more partial to the seeds of grass than to those of cultivated crops. Jerdon states that in South India he has observed it chiefly in bamboo jungle, feeding on the seeds of bamboos, whence the Telegu name—"Bamboo-sparrow."

PAROQUETS.

The case against the beautiful Green Paroquet is, I fear, far stronger. "Pretty polly" appears never to touch insect food. There is no doubt that he is destructive to cereal crops in India. He has a bad habit of breaking off a head and casting it away after having eaten only one or two grains. He further does harm to fruit gardens. I have seen a Rose-ringed Paroquet (*Palaeornis torquatus*) flying off with a small orange in his beak. If these birds were very abundant they would undoubtedly become serious pests. As it is they are kept well in check. Hundreds of thousands of these are caught as nestlings, and sold as pets for two annas apiece. The Paroquet is the favourite cage bird in India; to have one in the house is considered lucky. Moreover, notwithstanding recent legislation, large numbers of green parrots' skins are exported from India by the plumage merchant. Thus man receives ample compensation for poor polly's larcenies.

PIGEONS.

Doves and pigeons, like parrots, never eat insects. Some species subsist almost exclusively on fruit, others on grain. The fruit-eating kinds do but little damage, since they feed mostly on wild figs and other fruit of no use to man. The various species of dove affect groves and plantations of trees rather than cultivated fields, and I have never heard any complaints against them. The Blue Rock Pigeons (*Columba intermedia*) devour food grains, but, as a set-off, they are good birds for the table. They appear to be less abundant in India now than formerly. Sportsmen keep down their numbers. I do not know of any place in India where pigeons are sufficiently numerous to do serious damage to the crops.

GEESE.

There remain the geese. These certainly do damage to the green shoots of the various grain crops, but are so useful as food, and afford so much pleasure to the sportsman that their annual influx into India must be regarded as an asset of considerable value. The same may be said of the Common Quail, which feeds chiefly on grain. Thus, of the 1,600 species of birds found in India we can count on our fingers all those which, on further inquiry, may prove to be the foes of the farmer. The vast majority are his very good friends, and should be encouraged by every possible means.

EXPORT OF PLUMAGE.

In conclusion, a word on the exportation of plumage. As most people are aware, the Government of India passed, nearly six years ago, a measure prohibiting the export of plumage, other than Ostrich feathers, except as natural history specimens to museums. This Act was not passed in haste. The question of the necessity for such legislation on account of the harm done to agriculture by the killing of useful birds, for the sake of their plumage, was raised as long ago as 1869. It was not until 1887 that legislative action was taken. The enactment of 1887 not proving sufficiently efficacious, the more stringent Act of 1903 was passed.

Thus the Government of India has done all in its power for the birds and the agriculturists. Unfortunately, the export still continues, although, I believe, it has been considerably lessened. The law is evaded by the exporter making a false declaration as to the nature of his exports. I am glad to observe that a Bill prohibiting the importation of such plumage into Great Britain is now before Parliament. This Bill, if it becomes law, will render the Indian Act far more effective.

Surgeon-General Bidie, in a pamphlet published eight years ago, gives a list of thirty-two birds which are, or were, captured in South India on account of their feathers. Some of these birds are to be numbered among the best friends of the Indian husbandman. But, inasmuch as the Act of 1903 has come into force since Surgeon-General Bidie's paper was written, I do not propose to make it the basis of the remarks I am about to offer. A safer foundation is that afforded by the sales which have actually taken place in London of recent years. Large numbers of the following Indian birds have been sold in London since the passing of the Act:—Egrets, the "ospreys" of the feather trade, Impeyan or Monal Pheasants, Paroquets, Kingfishers, Trogons, Orioles, Rollers, Pittas, Owls, Jungle and Peafowl. With the solitary exception of the Paroquets, these are all good friends of the Indian ryot. So that, notwithstanding recent legislation, the plume-hunters are every year draining India of thousands of what Sir Charles Lawson well calls "a watchful and efficient bird police against multitudinous insect thieves." Thus, from a purely economic point of view, apart from the cruelty it involves, the trade in plumage birds is harmful to India.

EXTINCTION OF BIRDS.

There is also the question of the extinction of beautiful birds. Whether there is any danger of this I am not in a position to say, for my stay in India has not been sufficiently long for me to be able to form an opinion of the effect of this bird slaughter on the numbers of the various species. But Sir Charles Lawson, writing in 1900, states that the continuous depredations, of a long series of years, have woefully reduced the means of supply (of birds' skins), as any one may notice for himself when he passes paddy fields, or strolls through silent, because birdless, plantations or forests." It is certainly significant that the beautiful Indian Roller, or Blue Jay (*Coracias indica*) is a rare bird about both Madras and Bombay, while he becomes more plentiful as one goes inland. There seems to be no reason why this species should not thrive right up to the sea-shore, so that I am forced to attribute his scarcity on the coast near Bombay and Madras to the depredations of the plume-hunter.

THE INDICTMENT AGAINST THE PLUME HUNTER.

There are three counts in the indictment against this individual. First, that he is causing to become extinct some of the most beautiful of God's creatures. Second, that he is robbing the husbandman of numbers of his most useful allies. Third, that he is guilty of much cruelty. As regards count number one, thanks to the action of the Government, no Indian species, except possibly the Monal Pheasant (*Lophophorus refulgens*) seems in danger of early extinction. As to count number two, notwithstanding this legislation, the plume-hunter continues to destroy birds useful to the cultivator. There remains the third count of the charge, that of cruelty. Upon this I would lay especial stress, for I am convinced that if ladies had even a faint idea of the cruelty which plume-hunting involves, they would, with one accord, abstain from wearing any feathers, save those of the Ostrich and various game birds.

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

The low-caste inhabitants of India are, I regret to say, not, as a rule, characterised by kindness to animals. These seem quite unable to appreciate the fact that animals can feel. I have often observed donkeys staggering along so overloaded that at each step their hind legs "brushed," and blood issued from the places where the friction was greatest. I have seen, harnessed to a tonga, horses so exhausted that they could scarcely stand. On one occasion a friend and I walked a considerable portion of the journey from Rawalpindi to Murree in July because some of the tonga horses provided for us had not sufficient strength to pull the vehicle at more than a walking pace. On our way up we actually came upon the body of a horse that had dropped down and died from sheer exhaustion. We reported the matter to the Local Government, and suitable action was taken.

Some Indians use what are known as "thorn bits," that is to say, bits provided with sharp spikes, so that when the reins are jerked these penetrate the flesh of the mouth of the unfortunate steed.

In India fowls are always sold alive at market. The cook, when he purchases a number of them, ties the legs of all tightly together, and holding the tied-up bundle of legs, he carries the poor creatures home head downwards.

When out shooting I find it necessary to examine every bird picked up to make sure that life is extinct, as otherwise the coolie that carries the "bag" will put living birds on to the game stick, and there they will hang suspended by the neck until they die. Since animals are treated thus in everyday life, it is not pleasant to contemplate the kind of treatment meted out to his victims by the professional bird-catcher—a low caste man, brutalised by the constant butchery he perpetrates. He brings down his victim by means of a pellet of dried mud slung from a catapult, and wrapping the poor creature up in his loin-cloth, leaves it to die a lingering death. As likely as not, the bird in question has a nest full of young ones. These starve to death. Even white men are guilty of similar cruelty. Colonel Ryan, in the evidence which he gave, in June, before the Select Committee of the House of Lords on the Importation of Plumage Prohibition Bill, said:—"Last year I knew of another rookery (of Egrets) in New South Wales where some brigands went down and destroyed, I think, about fifty birds. Shortly after it was done we sent a photographer up, who got a very interesting series of photographs taken. He photographed a lot of dead birds and some young ones that died in their nests, and he got one photograph, which is almost unique, of three young birds just with their heads drooping, almost at the point of death."

We have listened lately to much talk about the right of women to vote. I beg to point out that there are modes of exercising political power far more efficacious than an occasional visit to the polling station. Woman —voteless woman—can, if she will, do more than even the British Parliament to prevent the destruction of beautiful birds.

FINIS.

Aviary Notes for 1909.

By Rev. J. M. PATERSON.

The following notes or records tabulate more attempts than successes on the part of my birds.

AVIARY No. 1: This is 27ft. long × 5ft. wide × 12ft. high, half covered in and with water laid on.

Budgerigars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*), 3 nests—11 young.

Cockateels (*Calopsittacus novæ-hollandiæ*), 3 nests—no young reared, birds disturbed by cats.

Aviaries 2 and 3 contain several large growing bushes and numerous branches of fir, with pieces of board, glass or felt over the places where the birds nest or roost.

AVIARY No. 2: Same size as No. 1; this is not covered in but has a shelter shed 5ft. × 5ft. × 7ft. high, with water laid on.

Goldfinches (*Carduélis élegans*), 2 nests, but no young reared, they were in each case deserted when about twelve days old.

Cutthroats (*Amadina fasciata*), 2 nests, 3 young reared.

Diamond Finches (*Steganoplena guttata*)—nesting.

AVIARY No. 3: This measures 27ft. × 10ft. × 12ft. high, with a shelter shed 10ft. × 5ft. × 7ft. high, also with water laid on.

Canaries—numerous nests—only 6 young fully reared.

Zebra Finches (*Tæniopygia castanotis*, 2 nests—4 young reared.

Avadavats (*Sporæginthus amandava*), 4 nests, 3 young hatched—none reared, all washed out of nest by heavy rain.

Long-tailed Grassfinch + Silverbill. These built and laid, but unfortunately all the eggs were clear.

This aviary also contained pairs of Paradise Whydahs (*Steganura paradisea*), Orange-cheeked Waxbills (*Sporœginthus melpodus*), Rose-breasted Waxbills (*Estrilda astrilda*), and a Scarlet Weaver, none of which made any attempt to nest.

AVIARY No. 4: This has a flight 12ft. × 4ft. × 6ft. high, with a covered in portion 8ft. × 4ft. × 8ft. high.

Canaries—1 nest—4 young reared.

Green Singing-finch + Canary; 4 fertile eggs, no young hatched.

Green Singing-finches (*Serinus icterus*)—hen died egg bound.

Zebra Finches (*T. castanotis*); 1 nest—1 young only reared.

Bengalese (*Uroloncha domestica*); numerous nests—all eggs clear.

White Java Sparrows (*Munia oryzivora* var. *alba*); 2 nests—all eggs clear.

AVIARY No. 5: This measures 6ft. × 6ft. × 8ft. high, roofed in and with glazed doors.

Zebra Finches (*T. castanotis*); 2 nests—8 young reared.

Cordon Bleus (*Estrilda phœnicotis*); 1 nest, 2 eggs—hen died egg bound.

Canaries—1 nest, 3 young reared.

AVIARY No. 6: This aviary consists of a covered shed 6ft. × 4ft. × 6ft. high, with flight in front 2ft. wide.

Bengalese and Java Sparrows; numerous nests, but all the eggs have proved clear.

Since writing the above, I have (Sept. 28th) Long-tailed Grassfinches, Ruficaudas (*Bathilda ruficauda*), White Java Sparrows (*M. oryzivora* v. *alba*), Silverbills (*Aidemosyne cantans*) and Avadavats (*S. amandava*), busily engaged in incubation; but I fear it is too late to see much result, if any, from the eggs.

Editorial.

NESTING NOTES: Mr. Brook writes me that his young Black Lory (*C. ater*) is now practically reared and is fully fledged, with the exception of the tail, which at present is but faintly indicated. Mr. Brook is to be congratulated on being the first to breed a true Lory in the British Isles.

Mr. Mathias reports the cross mating of Blue-breasted

Waxbill and Cordon Bleu, and they are (or were on Sept. 19th) busily incubating a clutch of eggs.

Club Certificates: Mr. Willford has successfully bred the Passerine Dove (*Chamæpelia passerina*) and the Striated Finch (*Uroloncha striata*). I cannot call to mind any record of either of the above having been previously bred in this country; if any reader knows of any instance of these species rearing young to maturity will they please record such at once.

As already recorded Mr. Teschemaker has bred the Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca cyanea*), Giant Whydah (*Chera procne*), Grey-headed Sparrow (*Passer diffusus*), Rufous-backed Mannikin (*Spermestes nigriceps*), Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*), Sulphury Seed-eater (*Serinus sulphuratus*), Red-whiskered Bulbul, and Jerdon's Accentor. Mr. E. J. Brook for rearing the Black Lory (*C. ater*) and myself for rearing the Grey-winged Ouzel. All the above are entitled to the Club's Certificates* for the above record, with the privilege of having medals in addition by paying the bare cost of same.

Striated Finch (*U. striata*). This species has cross-mated with nearly allied species fairly freely, but has not previous to this year been bred as a species in this country I believe.

Errata: Page 205, line 6, for *Orchestesticus* read *Orchesticus*.

BRITISH BIRDS.

The Redwing.

Turdus iliacus (Linn.)

By R. Suggitt.

During a spell of very sharp weather in December 1907, I caught about a dozen Redwings in my garden, carefully selecting a pair which I meated off and put into my aviary, in the hope that they would breed the following spring. From the first they were very wild and it was a difficult matter to approach the aviary, particularly at night, without disturbing them, when they would dash wildly at the wire netting until completely exhausted, while if a cat appeared on the scene they almost went mad with terror. This wild behaviour went on for some time, and they were soon reduced to a miserably dilapidated condition, the feathers were missing from the crowns of their heads, their flight and tail feathers were chafed and broken, and I seriously thought on more than one occasion of liberating them. However, they became more reconciled as spring approached, and about May the cock commenced to sing, and this was the only redeeming feature of their captivity; during the summer this bird sang for hours at a time, usually while sitting on the ground. The song was not very loud and, at the best, was but a very wheezy, asthmatical performance, without a single clear note.

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* Subject to sending a detailed record for publishing in *B.N.*—Ed.

In course of time they became comparatively tame, but they always gave me the impression that they slept with one eye open, and, as it was practically impossible to approach the aviary at night without disturbing them, I have noticed this trait in the wild Redwing; approach their roosting place with the greatest caution and before you can get within ten yards you are perceived, the alarm is given, and off goes the whole flock to a place of greater security. My birds never appeared to find pleasure in each other's society, or showed the slightest desire to set up housekeeping; in fact I got rather tired of them, and after they had moulted in mid-August of the present year, I gave them their liberty.

The Redwing appears to be more strictly insectivorous than the other British Thrushes, but my birds would occasionally eat a little very ripe banana. In spite of the beauty of its plumage the Redwing is perhaps the least interesting in captivity of all the Thrushes, for, wild as it is when first caught, as soon as it becomes accustomed to its surroundings and has overcome its natural timidity, it goes to the other extreme, and will sit in one position for hours at a stretch, either on the ground or on a secluded branch, only moving to visit the food. I am afraid I have said nothing very flattering of the Redwing in captivity, but he has other good points in addition to his striking plumage; he is a very small eater, is quite harmless to his weakest fellow captive, he never seeks a quarrel, and, when another bird disputes with him, he is always willing to give way on any point, and leave the victory with his often very much smaller opponent.

* * *

A September Ramble in the Isle of Wight.

By H. Goodchild, M.B.O.U.

On a glorious Autumn day, when life was a pleasant reality and one felt the joy of living, I turned my back on smoky, grimy London and sped down seawards, bound for the Isle of Wight, on a visit to our esteemed member Mr. H. Willford. It had been foggy in London in the earlier hours, but before ten in the morning, when I was clear of London and its smoke, I found an almost cloudless sky, a south-west wind, and a smiling landscape that might well have tempted our little summer migrants to prolong their stay on our hospitable shores, and which made me glad that the Fates had ordained I should be out of London, if only for a few days, to pursue my artistic avocation in the sunny South. I looked with renewed interest at the country around Claygate, as I had there been on an ornithological ramble with friends who had tastes similar to my own; and as we sped through Liphook, I bethought me that that was the nearest point on the route to the classic ground written of so lovingly by Gilbert White, in his "Natural History of Selborne," and recalled his remark "The parish I live in is a very abrupt, uneven country, full of hills and woods, and therefore full of birds."

Arrived at Portsmouth Harbour, I could not but admire the beautiful blue-green the water showed, so different to the water in the port of London. Two or three species of Gull were flying over the Harbour, but my knowledge of Gulls is somewhat rudimentary, and those that were in immature plumage—and most of them were in it—were beyond my comprehension. One large fellow in particular, which might have been a Lesser Black-backed Gull, was in especially perfect immature plumage, and as he wheeled and soared above the water, seemed as if he had every feather complete and in its proper place. As we crossed the Solent to Ryde, I caught sight of one of the sea-birds proper, perhaps a Guillemot, but it dived just as I noticed it, and I could not say what it was. Around Ryde Pier also, nearly all the Gulls were marked with the brown spots or patches of immaturity, and I did not attempt to identify them.

During the ten days I had the pleasure of being Mr. Willford's guest, I noted such wild birds as came my way, and on two occasions had opportunities of seeing more species than one usually sees in a limited time. On the first occasion (Thursday, September 23rd) I was driven indoors by a sharp shower, which was soon succeeded by another. After the rain had passed, I walked round the balcony of mine host's bird-room, and took stock of those wild birds which frequented the uncultivated patch adjoining the outdoor flights. A Thrush was perched on the top of the aviaries, and a female Blackbird was sitting preening in the quickset hedge close by. A Willow Wren and a Hedge Accentor were both hunting on the top of the flights; a Chaffinch was seen in a tree, while a party of Greenfinches alighted on the upper part of a Sycamore hard by. Two birds flew over and settled near the top of a tree some twenty yards off, and on looking at them with my binocular I saw, for the first time in my life that I am certain of, the Goldfinch in a state of nature. Several Robins were about, and a flight of Rooks passed over. House Martins were flying about, but I could not see a Swallow amongst them; a Blue Tit came into a pear tree close to me, but did not stay to hunt. A Spotted Flycatcher, probably the grey bird I had caught a glimpse of and thought was a Meadow Pipit, flew up and settled in a sag of the netting, but there was no mistaking its identity. A Pied Wagtail flying over was the next visitor, one I had heard already but not seen. Soon after one o'clock I noticed several Starlings at work in Mr. Willford's fig tree: they were certainly pecking and eating, but for a time I could not be sure that I saw them actually pecking the figs themselves, as in every case there was a leaf or something in the way, but at last I saw one actually pecking at a ripe fig and saw the torn side of the fruit in profile. In the afternoon, I had the pleasure of seeing a party of half-a-dozen more Goldfinches pay a visit to a bed of thistles growing near on the waste ground, and go over the wet heads in their characteristic vivacious way.

On the Sunday following (September 26th) the weather was dull in the morning, but the sky was cloudless overhead in the afternoon, and about half past three, on learning definitely that I should not have Mr. Willford's company, I set off by myself for Wooton Creek, a long narrow tidal course running in some three miles from the coast, not far west of Ryde. In its upper part, this creek is clothed on both sides with woodland, which, although the trees it contains are neither large nor old, is still favourable to bird life. At the head of the creek is pasture and arable land, while at the bottom, but above the reach of the tide is a level tract of rough grass land drained by sluggish streams and ditches. Extensive mud banks were disclosed when I visited it, the tide being out, and thus three or four quite different types of country were placed in close juxtaposition, the whole course being, Mr. Wiliford told me, one of the best stretches of country for observing birds in the whole district around.

The first entry made in my notebook was of a Robin, and then I saw Starlings, a flock of which were feeding in a field that looked to me as if it had been given over to the weeds and was only now being put under the plough again; something startled them, and with their habitual impetuosity, they rose in a flock, some sixty strong, and flew round the trees above me in the lane, their wings making quite a rushing sound as they passed over. Three Gulls, about the size of the Kittiwake, and one looked like a bird of the latter species, were seen over a turnip field although I was about a mile from the tidal part. Martins were about, and with them, for the first time in this district, I saw the Swallow. In a stubble field on my left, I startled a male Pheasant, which ran away towards cover as if I had been a poacher instead of a harmless field naturalist. A Blackbird gave the alarm—I suppose at me—and a Yellow Bunting, the only one I remember seeing here, rose and moved his quarters as I passed. A Missel Thrush attracted my attention by its churring as it passed over, and a Wren followed the Blackbird's example and gave its alarm from a hedge.

As I surveyed the low marshy ground from a distance, I saw a solitary Waterhen walking about feeding amongst the tufts and three Crows of some sort. Just after, as I was getting abreast of the woods, I heard a harsh rasping sound, like that produced by a policeman's rattle, which was new to my ears, but which, as it came from the wood, I set down at once as being the alarm of a Jay. I saw one man making his way along the outside of the wood and heard a voice, so I took it that there was someone else in the wood itself, and that seemed to be whence the Jays were excitedly warning everything within hearing of the presence of suspicious characters. This was followed by the chattering of a Magpie. I now saw seven Moorhens in a party on the marsh-land, feeding together. A Curlew's piping sounded not far off and, looking up, I saw first a Magpie making for the eastern wood, and then the Curlew itself, also making off.

A field I was approaching contained good beds of thistles, and these I anxiously scanned to see if there were any Goldfinches about, but saw none. A Woodpigeon flew over and a Skylark was heard twittering, but not seen. I had now got down on to the low ground and was skirting the wood on the East side when two or three birds, of medium size, flew out, as it seemed, from the far side of an oak, with the same rasping note, distantly resembling a Heron's, that I had heard before. They came back once close to the tree, as if to have another look at the intruder, and I saw them in full view, but only momentarily, and I could not see the colour properly. Again the Woodpigeon was seen and the Wren heard warning, and a Pheasant took the alarm and flew across the open marshland well out of range. The coo of Doves, the caw of a Carrion Crow, and the churr of a Tit were noted along with the singing of a Robin.

Having wended my way along the path on the East side of the creek, I came in sight of an interesting view of the head of the tidal part, flanked on each side by the wood that clothed the rising ground, and again heard the strange sound I had taken for a Jay's alarm. Two or three trees close together on the opposite side had parts projecting against the sky and in a dead one, I saw a Woodpigeon sitting, almost the colour of the dead bark, it seemed to me, and close by, two Rooks, also sitting on dead branches. Another unusual sound caught my ears, and searching the trees opposite where the Rooks were, I was delighted to see a bird I had only once before had a good sight of—the Sparrow Hawk, a bird common enough, as game preservers know to their cost in some parts, but one I have never had the good fortune to be able to study in nature. What interested and surprised me was, that the Hawk, which I had imagined to be a creature that sat almost like a statue if it were perching at all, was moving about its tree as restlessly as a Magpie, I might say it appeared to be hopping about. Two or three times the Sparrow Hawk flew out and dived at the Rooks as it passed them, and a curious crackling noise I had never heard before, and which was quite unlike their ordinary call, seemed to be produced by them while this was going on.

Just after five o'clock the plaintive piping of Waders was heard, but search the shores and mud flats as I would, I could not see the birds that made it. Shortly after, I actually saw the Jay, for the first time to be sure of, but it was against the sunset sky, and the colours appeared blurred and the view was not a good one. The grating cry of a Heron greeted my ears and two of these fine birds flew up and away, while immediately after, a Jay flew right across the creek, away from the declining sun, giving me a fair view of its beautiful colours, which with the glass, I saw well. Gulls were seen lower down on the mud but they could not be identified, and a Carrion Crow flew over, while Swallows hawked for flies high over the creek. Two Missel Thrushes passed over churring at half-past five, a Robin was heard singing, and a flight of Wagtails passed over going towards the sea. Two Pigeons, the beat of whose wings made quite a musical note, flew Southwards over the wood, and appeared to be Stock Doves,—another species I am not well acquainted with.

On emerging from the wood on to the open fields around Wooton, I saw several more Wagtails, all flying towards the sea, and a Gull also, with a brown mark on its nape and the brown band on the wings like a Kittiwake, passed me, but not a bird could I see on the mud flats.

As I retraced my steps two Curlews flew up the creek, these being the first to come near me voluntarily. Cries of acute pain, as of a bird in the clutches of a hawk, came from the wood as I got near it, but no hawk did I see. Three Carrion Crows went and settled on the mud by the side of a channel, and a Heron flapped up over the creek. Several Robins were singing at once just at sunset, and as I came within sight of the head of the creek, the Heron rose, but only flapped two or three hundred yards and settled in view amongst the coarse herbage.

Pheasants were clucking, Robins singing, and Doves cooing, all at once at six o'clock, and the Heron still kept his head up on the alert. Another one, far behind me, had placed himself in the middle of the channel and at twenty minutes past six, was still visible in the now grey light, looking like a weathered post in the mud, but he soon after waded across to the West side and was lost to view. By 6.35 the Robins had stopped singing, but the Curlew was still heard. At 6.40, when it was only just light enough for me to see to write, I heard a Sandpiper passing overhead, giving his characteristic whistle, and at 6.45 a note frequently repeated, like the sound of chopping a stake to a point on a wooden block with a sharp axe, came out of the Western coppice, but what made it, I cannot tell.

I had thus, in the course of about three hours (3.45 to 6.45 p.m.) seen eighteen species of birds, and heard six others whose cries or notes I could confidently ascribe to birds I knew well, and besides this, had heard sounds that were puzzles to me. Even counting that all the Gulls I had seen were of one species, and that the churring of Tits came from the Blue kind only, I had a list of twenty-four species for an afternoon's ramble. Had I only thought that I should have made so good a list, I should certainly have commenced making my observations an hour or so sooner, around Mr. Willford's avaries, and judging by my previous experience there, might fairly suppose that my list of birds would have been by far the longest for one afternoon only, that I had ever made in my life. I am disposed to believe what was afterwards said to me, by a native of the Island, a man with pronounced tastes in these matters, that "the Isle of Wight is the finest place for birds in the Kingdom," and I sincerely hope that my first visit to it will not be the last, for years to come.

* * *

THE SUCCESSFUL REARING OF YOUNG BY UNMATED HENS. In a recent issue we recorded the rearing of young Blackbirds and Thrushes in Mr. Willford's avaries. During a short visit to Mr. Willford I was much interested to learn from the aviary attendent, that they only possessed hens, which were caught in unfinished aviaries during building operations. These unmated hens built and laid clutches of eggs, which were taken away and re-placed by the eggs of wild birds taken on the estate. These were duly incubated, hatched and fully reared, though no male birds were in the avaries. This is of much interest to me at the present time, as appearing to confirm the observations I made during the recent nesting and rearing of the young by my Himalayan Ouzels, viz., that up to twelve days the young were almost entirely fed by the hen bird and it would appear as if this were a common characteristic of this group of birds. There have been many instances of both British and Foreign birds, when the male parent has suddenly died, of the hen bird successfully rearing the young, but not many instances I think, such as the above record of unmated hens doing so. Mr. Willford's aviaries are so extensive that earthworms, slugs, etc., would be almost unlimited and the task a fairly easy one, but four young were successfully reared in each instance and were very fine and vigorous birds when I saw them, being then in almost full plumage—the sexes being about equal so far as I remember.

W. T. P.

Correspondence.

NESTING OF GREY CARDINALS *(Paroaria cucullata).*

Sir,—The following account of the successful rearing of the Grey Cardinal in the year 1837-39 may be of interest to our readers. This took place in a garden aviary in Florence, but my ignorance of Italian (in which language the account is written) prevents my quoting any details. Perhaps some of our readers may be able to say whether there is any earlier record of the breeding of this species than this.

The account is contained in a folio pamphlet of eight pages (three text, the rest blank or titles, etc.) with coloured plate showing the adult cock; the hen on the nest; a young bird three months old (showing its red-brown head and back and tail grey washed with brown); the head of a six months old bird; and lastly an egg (blue with green markings very thick towards the larger ends.).

This paper (a copy of which is in the Radcliffe Library, Oxford) was read by Dr. Passerini before an Italian scientific society at Pisa in 1839, and was printed at Florence in 1841. The full title is as follows:—

Notizie sulla moltiplicazione in Firenze negli anni 1837, 1838, 1839 dell'uccello americano *Paroaria cucullata*, chiamato volgarmente Cardinal.

Lette in Pisa allo sezione di zoologia della prima reunione della scienzati italiani il 7 Ottobre 1839, dal Doctor Carlo Passerini, aggregato al professore di Zoologie dell'l e. r. museo di storia naturale di Firenze. ——

FIRENZE.
TIPOGRAPHIA PEZZATI.

1841.

E. HOPKINSON.

Bird Notes from Far and Near.

NATURE NOTES.

THE BIRDS OF TWO COUNTRIES.

SOME QUAINT AUSTRALIANS.

By James Drummond, F.L.S., F.Z.S.

Although there is remarkable difference between the birds of New Zealand and of Australia if each avifauna is regarded collectively, there is quite a long list of individual birds that are represented in both countries. Several birds popularly believed to be peculiar to New Zealand are common in Australia. As a matter of fact, New Zealand is indebted to Australia for some of the most attractive members of her bird-land. . . . . . . Some Australians, however, must have crossed the Tasman Sea and come to New Zealand by a direct route. The practicability of this extraordinary migration over the water is demonstrated by the arrival of the little WHITE-EYE within historical times. As the ages passed, isolation and a life free from care brought about by changes, which have caused many New Zealand birds to become so peculiar and eccentric that their relationship to the ancestral type can hardly be recognised. Mr. Will Lawson, who is now a resident of Wellington, has supplied me with some notes on a few Australian birds which are not seen in New Zealand. "I read with pleasure your notes concerning the WHITE-EYE and its migration to New Zealand," he says "and having some years ago lived for a time in Queensland, where the little bird is known as the 'Silver eye,' its mention revived memories of bird life in Australia. Your more recent allusion to the White Heron prompts me to offer you these notes on some of the more unusual Queensland birds; unusual, that is, to New Zealanders."

He says that in Queensland, as in other tropical and subtropical countries, there are many varieties of birds and many of each kind, gaily-coloured and strident-tongued; Finches, Parrots, Crows, Pigeons and other sorts. Of Pigeons and Doves there are quite a dozen kinds, the WONGA-WONGA and SQUATTER PIGEONS most nearly resembling the New Zealand Wild Pigeon. The Torres Strait Pigeon and the BRONZE-WING, the former black and white and the latter bronze-brown in colour, are wilder and stronger-flighted birds. As in New Zealand, the finding of the nest of the Pigeon is a rare occurrence. There is a Queensland bird, popularly known as the WILLIE WAGTAIL. In appearance it is much like the NEW ZEALAND FANTAIL. It is a most confident little bird, and hovers about the pastures wherein cattle are grazing. This bird is polygamous, each male having six or seven mates. It feeds on the ground on seeds of the native grasses. When on the ground the whole flock is of a brown colour, but occasionally the birds rise to seek fresh pastures, and then the male ruffles his feathers in a way that changes his colour to a brilliant scarlet, thus marking himself out as the leader who must be followed.

Another interesting ground bird in Queensland is the BOWER-BIRD. It is about the size of a Magpie. These birds dwell in colonies of about a dozen and each pair has its nest, a most untidy, hastily-thrown-together affair, stuck promiscuously in adjacent trees. The whole energy of the colony is centred in the bower, which each group of birds build, and which is a marvellous construction. Twigs are laid on the ground and their ends are curved upwards. Then more twigs are woven into these, their ends still curving, until a woven tunnel is the result, built so strongly that it is difficult to cause any movement by shaking with the hand. These tunnels, or bowers, have several ramifications, and here the birds play all day long. They decorate their bower with bright leaves, flowers, pebbles and shells, and if by chance a silver spoon or ornament falls into their clutches, it is given a prominent position in their playhouse. A friend in North Queensland told Mr. Lawson that on one occasion be found a bower so strongly and compactly built he could have raised it and carried it off without misplacing a single twig. *(To be continued.)*

Post Mortem Reports.

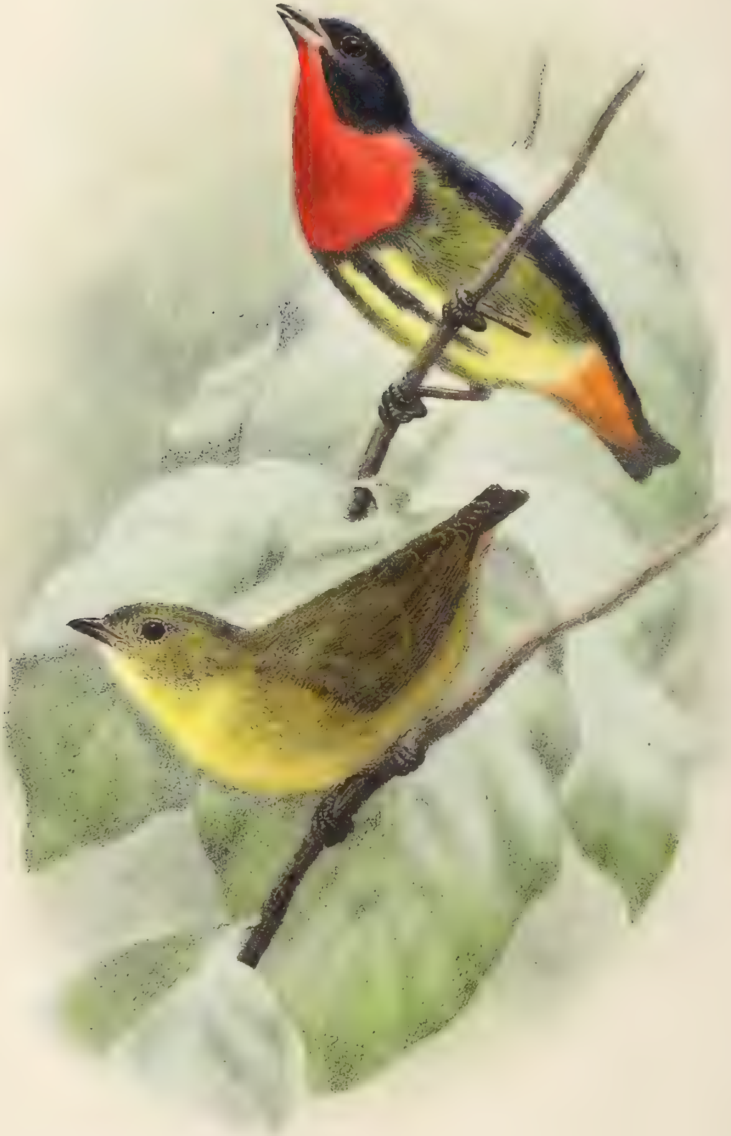
(*Vide Rules*).

For replies by post, a fee of 2/6 *must be sent;* this regulation will not be broken under any condition.

HEN SAFFRON-FINCH. (H. V. Johnson.) Cause of death, bird fever, which is a very deadly complaint.

BIRD FEVER has been very rampant this season and aviculturists should be careful in making new purchases. HENRY GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

Continued in Inset, page 40.



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Huth imp

THE FLAME-BREASTED FLOWER PECKER

Dicaeum ignicolle.

Drawn from life

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Flame-breasted Flower-peckers.

(*Dicæum ignicolle*).

By WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S.

A few lines on Flower-peckers generally, will, I think, form a fitting introduction to the subject of our beautiful frontispiece. To my esteemed friend and fellow member, Mr. E. W. Harper, belongs the honour of being the first to import this genus to this country. Some few years ago he presented a pair of the Crimson-backed and a single Tickell's to the London Zoo, where their stay was but short, as they soon joined the "majority."

The Family DICÆIDIÆ consists of nineteen genera, covering ninety-six species, of which *Dicæum* claims forty-seven; the genera are as follows: *Hemignathus* (3), *Drepanis* (1), *Vestiaria* (1), *Himatione* (2), *Dicæum* (47), *Loxioides* (1), *Loxops* (3), *Psithrostra* (1), *Pinaroloxias* (1), *Oreocharis* (1), *Pardalotus* (8), *Parmophila* (1), *Prionochilus* (15), *Pliolidornis* (2), *Lobornis* (1), *Urocharis* (1), *Melanocharis* (4), *Pristorhampus* (1), and *Rhamphocharis* (1). The figures indicate the number of species.

The Flower-peckers strongly resemble the Sunbirds in their habits; however, very few of them have their slender, Creeper-like bill, and the structure of the nest of the Flower-peckers differs widely from that of the Sunbirds. With the exception of a few species found on the West Coast of Africa, they are natives of Indian and Australian regions. Many of the species are gorgeously arrayed, others almost plain; four species *D. rubrocoronatum*, *D. pulchrius*, *P. rubrifrons* and *L. alexandri* are figured in colour in Vol. X. B.M. Cat., the first three of which are equally beautiful as the species which adorns our frontispiece.

These wee mites, about the size of an English Wren, frequent woods and gardens, also in small flocks haunt the tops of lofty trees near water courses; they are very rapid in their movements—hopping, darting, and clinging with a very Tit-like demeanour. Their food in a state of nature is insects, spiders, fruit, buds, and the nectar of flowers. The nest is mostly a purse shaped structure, well-woven and felted together, consisting of grass, moss, and white cottony material. The eggs are mostly white, some few are reddish and blotched with dark brown.

At this stage I cannot do better than quote *in extenso*—by kind permission—from a letter received from my esteemed friend Mr. E. W. Harper:—

"My experience of the Flower-peckers is limited to the "Indian ones; and of these I have only kept two species in con-"finement, viz., the Scarlet-backed (*Dicæum cruentatum*) and a "single specimen of Tickell's (*D. erythrorynchus*)—the latter "having been kindly presented to me by our mutual friend, Mr. F. "Finn. The Tickell's and a pair of the Scarlet-backed ultimately "found their way to the London Zoo—a very long journey for "such wee mites.

"It is probably owing to the fact that Flower-peckers spend "most of their time at the tops of large trees that they are so "fearless, and so readily take to confinement. If the hand be "placed in a cage containing freshly-caught birds, they settle on "it—a similar thing happening with freshly-caught Humming-"birds. Flower-peckers are ravenous eaters; the first thing they "do after capture is to commence to satisfy their voracious "appetite—I use the word *commence* intentionally, because they never seem to be satisfied!

"The Scarlet-backed Flower-pecker sleeps hanging head "downwards from the top of the cage—when it has the facility "for doing so. The keeper at the Zoo tells me that he has seen "the new specimen there in this attitude during the day, but he "cannot say if it sleeps so. I was once sleeping in India with a "cage containing some Flower-peckers placed near my bed for "safety, when I was suddenly awakened by a great fluttering. "Upon getting a light, I found that one of the birds, whilst "hanging asleep by its feet, had had its three front toes bitten "off by a rat. The poor bird lived long after the accident, with "only its hind claw upon one foot.

"Flower-peckers thrive upon a diet suitable for the fruit-

"eating Tanagers: good insectivorous mixture; sponge-cake "scalded with milk; fruit—banana, guava, papaw—*ad. libitum;* "and small insects."

The Flame-breasted Flower-pecker (*Dicæum ignicolle*), is the third species of this genus to reach English shores alive and was imported by Mr. W. Frost, among the birds he collected in the Aru Islands for Sir W. Ingram, and has been for some months on deposit at the Zoo. There on many occasions I have been fascinated with this wee mite; his fearless demeanour, quaint Tit-like deportment, never-satisfied appetite, and the appearance of being most comfortable when wrong side up is most engaging. He frequently jerks up his tail perpendicularly in Wren-like fashion. He is now fast coming into full plumage and gives promise of great beauty, though not yet in all the glory of full adult plumage. It is quite a feature of his movements, the frequency with which he flies to the top of his cage to take brief rests, hanging head downwards, but his voracious appetite only permits of short rests—the keeper tells me he thinks going a very brief time without his banana would kill it. His diet at the Zoo consists of one mealworm per day; ox biscuit meal, sugar, condensed milk and a little water; he also told me that it visited the banana practically every five minutes. He is apparently very fit and doing well, and he is most certainly a beautiful, engaging, and interesting little fellow—all visitors to the Zoo should certainly pay him a visit—he is located in the "Small Bird House." With Mr. Goodchild's fine painting before us, description seems almost superfluous, nevertheless, as some few associates do not get coloured plates, it will be best to give a detailed description.

Adult male: Upper surface dark purplish blue, this is also the colour of the wing coverts; quills black with the external webs purplish-blue; tail feathers blackish-blue; lores, sides of face, ear coverts and cheeks purplish-blue; throat, fore neck and chest bright scarlet; remainder of under surface pale buff, washed with yellowish on the flanks and down the centre of the breast a broad purplish-blue streak; under tail coverts scarlet. Total length 3½ inches, tail 1⅛.

Adult female: Differs from the male in lacking the scarlet throat, purplish-blue breast patch and upper surface; the upper surface is dusky olive, with purplish reflections on the back and mantle; the purplish feathers of the rump and upper tail coverts edged with red; breast and abdomen light olive, darker on the sides and flanks; under tail coverts pale scarlet. Total length 3½ inches, tail barely one inch. Habitat Aru Island.

The Golden Eagle.

(*Aquila chrysaëtus*).

By C. H. Donald, F.Z.S.

Though hardly a subject for an avicultural magazine, the "Raptores" generally seem to be so invariably left out in the cold and one sees so little of them and their ways, in popular magazines, that I make bold to think a short description of one of the grandest birds in existence will be of interest to many bird lovers, especially as the bird in question is so rare now-a-days and one, in captivity, almost unheard of.

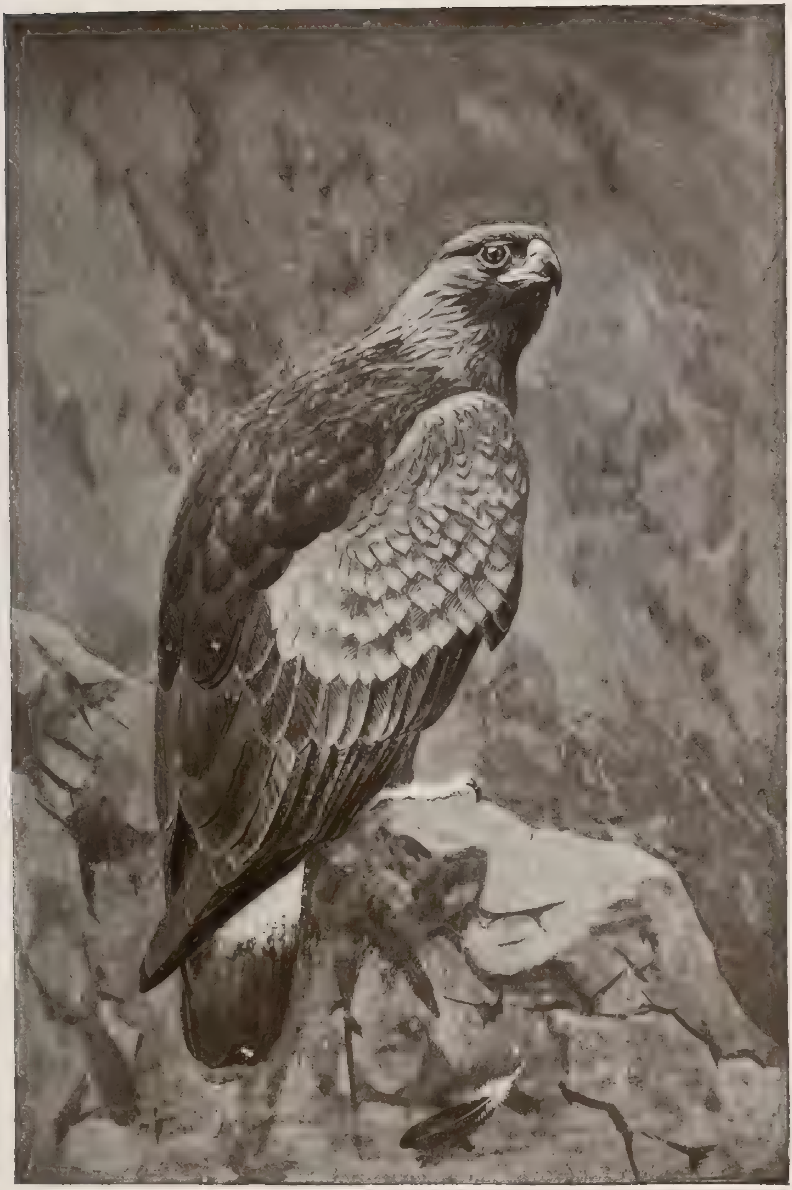
India, a country well stocked with birds of prey, generally, can boast of some twenty-eight genera, comprising seventy-two species excluding the *Vulturidæ.* The Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaëtus*) though by no means rare, is somehow very little known, and the two species *A. chrysaëtus* and *A. heliaea*, the Imperial Eagle, are frequently mistaken one for the other.

In plumage there is certainly a great similarity between the two, but there the likeness ends. Whereas the Golden Eagle is a mighty hunter, the Imperial is nothing more or less than a scavenger and carrion feeder, though he may occasionally be seen stooping at a hare or other small mammal.

Either in the company of vultures, tearing at a carcase, or near a slaughter house, or in open sandy plains on the look out for rats and lizards sums up the habits of the Imperial Eagle in a nutshell, that is so far as we, in India, see him, for he is only a winter visitor and he seems to love soaring on outspread pinions, as little as the Indian villager likes walking and only does so when he must.

The Golden Eagle on the other hand is a dweller of the mighty Himalayas and seldom, if ever, comes down to the plains. Personally, I have never seem him below an altitude of 4,000 ft. above sea level and that only in very severe winters.

They almost invariably hunt in pairs and may be seen any day between September and February from altitudes varying from 8,000 to 16,000 ft., scouring the hillsides for pheasants and snow cock; the lambs and kids of the mountain sheep and goats also pay a heavy annual toll, while shepherds all over the Himalayas, tell of their depredations among the flocks.



The Golden Eagle.

Aquila chrysaëtus.

Drawn from life by H GOODCHILD.

The Golden Eagle builds in inaccessible cliffs from 7 to 10,000 ft. altitude and constructs a great platform of sticks, on a ledge of rock, with another one overhanging it, as a protection from the snow and rain, The only lining to the nest is a few green twigs of one of the firs or pines, the needles of which must be anything but pleasant for close sitting. In one nest, taken by me last year, three men could have lain comfortably side by side, with room to spare, and all round was a miscellaneous assortment of legs, hair, feathers, fur, and to cap all, the grinning skull of a fox. Crows, judging from the number of beaks about, seemed to be in high favour in this family and the large Red Flying Squirrel (*Pt. inornatus*) ran a good second. On the ground, at the foot of the cliff, was the almost entire skeleton of a musk deer.

The young are hatched in March, but do not leave the nest till the middle or end of July and then only to get on to the adjoining trees and do not accompany the parents till nearly the end of August. The Eyass may always be distinguished from the parent birds, by the white patches on the wings, visible from either above or below, when the bird is flying, and the amount of white on the tail.

The youngster remains with the parents for nearly a month after it begins to fly with them, and after that, is turned out into the world to fend for itself. One of the finest sights imaginable is the Eyass being initiated into the mysteries of stooping. The trio will be seen leaving the trees and soaring up into the heavens, the haggard leads the way with "something" in her talons, then comes the squealing youngster and the tiercel a little to one side, as if to keep guard. If you watch them carefully with a strong pair of glasses, you will see the "something" drop from the haggard's claws and the eyass will drop with closed wings after it, followed leisurely by the mother. If the youngster misses his stoop and he is pretty certain to do so, the haggard simply shoots past him, catches the juicy tit-bit and begins soaring again, till high enough up to give the youngster another good stoop. This game may go on till the youngster has put in four or five stoops and in the end he either catches it, or the mother considers he has had enough and takes the family back into the trees and presumably gives the youngster his hard earned dinner.

No birds seem fonder of stooping, for stooping's sake, than are Golden Eagles, and a pair may frequently be seen ringing high into space and then put in ten minutes or so stooping either at each other, or each on his own simply dropping with closed wings and then rising as abruptly as they descended.

In captivity, a Golden Eagle makes the most delightful pet it has ever been my lot to keep and the most interesting.

The one I have with me now, was taken from the nest a full fledged eyass on the 20th of June, but did not attempt to use her wings till the 16th of July, when she managed to fly about ten yards down hill and came down all of a heap at the end. After that date, however, she was always flapping her wings and practising, and finally one day, with the help of a strong breeze, soared clean away and I did not find her till the following day. From now on she was always ready for a sail up, but could not come down again, so I had to take that part of her education in hand, by placing her on a prominent stone somewhere, and myself going down the hill with my lure—a stuffed lamb's skin, to which I have taught her to come—and calling her down. Of course, the first two or three days I called her down a gentle incline and a short distance, but by degrees, increased both the distance and the gradient. Several times she has missed the lure and me by yards and sat down on some tree near at hand and had another try from there, but practice makes perfect and now she thinks nothing of dropping almost straight down with absolutely closed wings and rising in perfect style if I draw the lure away. I keep her perfectly loose to go where she likes and she frequently spends the night out somewhere, but always turns up, as soon as I go outside in the morning. On one occasion I thought I had seen the last of her as she had been away two days, and finally I saw her in the company of two wild ones, which I concluded were her parents, and she took no notice of me or my lure. However, I finally managed to get near enough to the trio to tickle up the parents with No. 6 shot, which sent them off faster than mine could follow, and seeing them go off, she came back to me.

This incident made me rather chary of keeping her loose, but on the other hand, if I did not, she would never be strong on the wing and so useless, as far as hunting with her was concerned, so I decided to risk her going off altogether. The next time she went off, she was away six whole days and I had given her up for lost, but the seventh morning found her back, considerably thinner than when she went and needing no call to bring her up to the lure at sight.

Since then she has never been away for more than a night and stranger than all, the parents, which are frequently about here, go for her on every possible occasion. Whether they consider the bells uncanny or remember the charge of shot they got, I do not know, but certain it is, that there is no lost love between them now.

She is perfectly confiding and lets me do anything I like to her, from stroking her, to putting my arm round her and picking her up bodily. Though quite friendly with my dogs, she knows a strange one at once and does not hesitate to make for it.

Fear of the unknown, does not seem to enter into her composition at all and from the day she was taken from the nest, when annoyed, she has always taken the aggressive and never attempted to get away from man.

Yet an eagle's nest may be robbed with impunity and the parents will not even attempt to defend, what a little shrike or drongo would almost give its life to save.

Breeding of Passerine Parrakeets and Black-cheeked Lovebirds.

By Hayward W. Mathias.

Passerine Parrakeets (*Psittacula passerina*).

My acquaintance with this species—which is popularly known as the Blue-winged Lovebird—dates from November of last year, when I purchased four pairs of newly-imported birds. Death claimed its usual winter toll of newly-imported stock, but in the Spring of 1909 I found myself with a very healthy pair (the hen especially strong and vigorous) and two or three odd birds; the latter I sold as opportunity offered.

About the end of April, I concluded it would be safe to shift the pair from the heated greenhouse, in which they had wintered, into the outdoor aviary, which figured in May issue of current volume. This aviary is entirely roofed in, and has a glass front for protection from the furious winds, for which this part of the world is famous; but has the sides open, with shutters on the east and west, which can be taken down and replaced at will. I may mention, while I am on this subject, that I consider these shutters—especially in a windy locality like this (Hants.)—of very great value. They render one practically safe from the sudden changes which this delightful climate of ours affords, and have, of course, been of particular service this summer.

The Passerines shared this aviary with my Black Cheeks and Stanleys, and they speedily settled down and formed part of a very happy family. Perhaps it was the good example set by the Black Cheeks, in the way of reproducing their kind, that induced the Passerines to depart from their usual non-productive habits. Anyway, about the middle of July, I heard vigorous remonstrances from a pair of Black Cheeks, to which I must admit I paid no particular attention; but one wet day, on spending some time in the aviary, I found that the hen Passerine was missing. A search in the various husks, with which this aviary is furnished, revealed that one of them, from which the Black Cheeks had previously brought out a brood, was inhabited by the hen Passerine; thus the "remonstrances" I had heard earlier in the month were most satisfactorily explained.

I am, very unfortunately, unable to say when the eggs were laid, and therefore can give no data as to the period of incubation; but this much I can place on record, viz., that the hen laid six eggs, two of which failed to hatch, that the first youngster was hatched on July 30th, and that the entire brood of four left the husk fully fledged practically simultaneously, on Sept. 1st. They were very strong from the first, and after two or three days pecked up food (principally spray millet) for themselves.

There was no attempt whatever at making a nest. The old Passerines simply took possession of a husk in which the Black Cheeks had previously incubated, and from which I had removed the nest lining.

I think it will be safe to assume that for the entire period of incubation (as certainly was the case up to the time the young birds were three weeks old), the hen *never* left her nest. The cock was actively employed in supplying the wants of his family, he seemed to feed them principally—if not entirely—on spray millet. There is one point I noticed about the young Passerines that may be worth a passing mention, and that is (unlike their "cousins" the Black Cheeks, which almost invariably "brood" with their parents, even when they are again incubating) that the Passerines never once returned to their nesting place, but practically from the first cut themselves adrift from their parents and kept quite to themselves. They were certainly sturdy and independent little persons and full of character.

I regret that not being the happy possessor of heated aviaries, the young birds and the old pair have now passed into the possession of our esteemed member, Mr. H. Willford, who is fortunately able to provide for their requirements during the winter. I have asked Mr. Willford—in the interest of the readers of "our" magazine—to keep notes of the date when the young cocks come into colour. When first hatched, and up to the date I parted with them (Sept. 29), the birds were of an uniform green, with no trace whatever of the blue that distinguishes the cocks; it will certainly be of interest to know at what age the young males don that beautiful blue, which is so striking a feature of the adult male.

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BLACK-CHEEKED LOVEBIRDS (*Agapornis nigrigenis*).

While on the subject of Lovebirds, possibly a few random notes on "Black Cheeks" may be of interest. I say advisedly "random notes," since I have, unfortunately, not kept any particular data as to nesting, and I can therefore only generalize.

In the Spring of this year, our esteemed member, Mr. Millsum, very kindly let me have three pairs of Black Cheeks; of these, two pairs settled down (perhaps they were old stagers), almost at once, but the third pair, after fussing about a good deal, apparently made up their minds that my modest attempt at a "Rhodesian Forest" was not to their liking, for they declined to make themselves "at home." I, therefore, came to the conclusion that the hen was a barren bird, and I recently parted with the pair to a friend, who asked me for "attractive" birds for his aviary, and who did not care whether they were breeders or not.

To show the contrariness of the lady, my friend recently informed me that very soon after the arrival of the Black Cheeks they had taken possession of a husk and had started building operations, and I hope that in due time more young Black Cheeks have come into being.

Perhaps the "contrariness" evinced by this pair may explain the disappointment I understand that a good many aviculturists have experienced with their Black Cheeks this season, for it rather points to the fact that for refractory pairs change of quarters may conduce to successful breeding operations.

As to my other Black Cheeks. One pair took possession of a cocoa-nut husk the day they arrived, and I jumped to the conclusion they were nesting: but no such thing! They simply made it their place of refuge, and it was not until about a month later that I had the satisfaction of seeing millet heads carried into the husk, and, in due course of time, four youngsters (as like their parents as "two peas") made their appearance in the aviary.

The second pair, after worrying around the rest of the husks, finally took to a large hollow trunk I had cut from an old apple tree. This trunk was placed in a horizontal position on a shelf in the nesting quarters, and the Black Cheeks proceeded to fill up the *entire* hollow with millet heads, making therefore an enormous nest. One end of the hollow tree trunk had been stopped up, by nailing a piece of board across it, and, as I shall show later on, it was at this far end that the actual nest was placed. This pair also produced, as their first effort, four youngsters, so I have every reason to be satisfied with the result of the first round—eight birds from the eight eggs laid.

The young birds from both pairs used the husk and log in which they were respectively bred as their "home," and I soon found that pair No. 1 had lined another husk, and that the lady had laid five eggs, from which, in due course, five young made their appearance (one fell out of the nest and was killed). This pair is nesting again.

The second pair (the log nesters) apparently liked their quarters, for very soon after their young were on the wing they both disappeared, and I saw nothing of them for some days, but the young birds continued to go in and out of the log as usual. Becoming anxious, I determined to see if either or both of the old birds had died, and I therefore knocked off the end of the log with a hammer, and there were both the old birds and their four youngsters—*and* the hen upon four eggs.

It seems extraordinary that birds which are so very wild in the aviary should be so docile as these were, for if anything is calculated to disturb birds, one would think that knocking out a piece of wood nailed firmly to the end of the log would have done so. In point of fact, although the old cock and the young, finally escaped up the tunnel of the nest and so into the aviary, I had to take the hen off the nest in order to see whether she was crippled or not, and the reward I got for my pains was a very shrewd nip from her powerful beak!

I find Black Cheeks decidedly interesting birds to keep, and the way in which they dive into their nesting places is quite comical. They certainly, when disturbed by strangers, shriek a good deal, but the noise is not an unpleasant one, and they take little or no notice of my gardener or myself when we are in the aviary. Black Cheeks are easy to keep (mine feed principally on millet sprays) and, so far as my experience goes, are hardy; but, of course, I do not know what disappointments the writer may have in store, since all my birds are kept in unheated aviaries. For productiveness, Black Cheeks compare quite favourably with Budgerigars, as from my two pairs I have, or had, on the wing, fifteen birds out of sixteen hatched. Both pairs are again upon eggs, and since I notice that egg shells have been carried out to the opening of the log nest, young birds are certainly there, while the "cocoa-nut huskers" will, I have little doubt, add to the aviary population when their eggs are due to hatch.

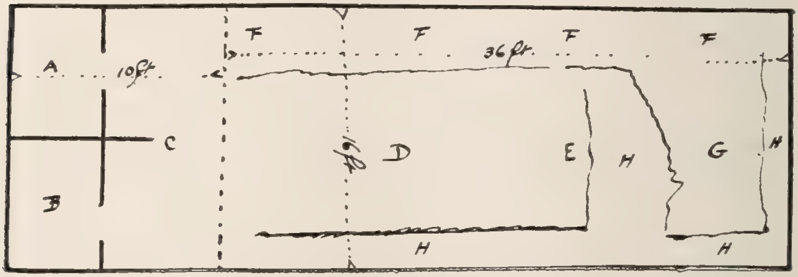
Visits to Members' Aviaries.

By WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S.

It will be seen that the round of aviaries made during the summer, though not a lengthy one, includes both Southern and Eastern Counties.

MR. SUGGITTS AVIARY AND BIRDROOM. The locality is Cleethorpes, Lincs., and the situation an exposed and bleak one; nevertheless all the birds do well and only those showing discomfort from cold, etc., and known delicate species are wintered indoors.

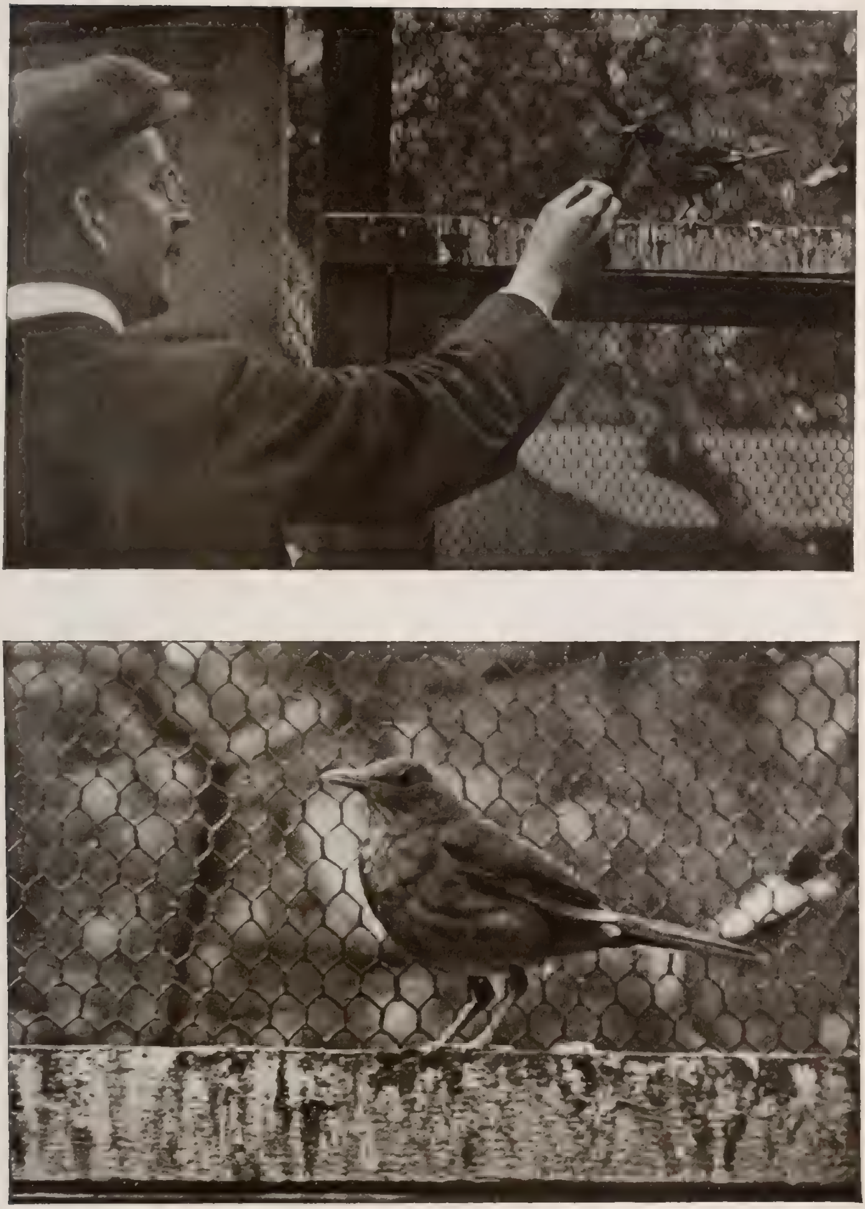
The outdoor aviary is a large one, containing plenty of cover, with the usual shelter shed and covered flight attached to the open natural flight. . . . The accompanying plan (from memory) will indicate the arrangements, as also will the photo illustrate how ample and excellent is the natural cover provided. The photo, if giving but a poor idea of the aviary generally, will indicate what a natural kind of little paradise the birds have to disport themselves in.



GROUND PLAN. MR. SUGGITT'S AVIARY.

A & B.	Shelter Sheds.
C.	Covered portion of flight.
D.	Grass plot with raised bank at E.
F.F.F.F.	Privet hedge running whole length of Aviary.
G.	Thicket of growing trees.
H.H.H.H.	Gravel Walk.

Frequent notes of breeding successes have appeared from time to time under "Editorial Notes," etc., there is therefore no need to recapitulate here; nevertheless I must note the laying of



The Olive-backed Thrush.

Mr. Suggitt's Aviaries.

Interior of Flight—Mr. Suggitt's Aviaries.

× Site of Blackcaps' Nest.

a clutch of eggs by the Snow Buntings, successful rearing of Blackcaps, and a brood of Indigo Buntings which only came just short of success. . . . . Quite a number of young birds have been reared among the commoner species, such as Red-headed Finches, Long- and Rufous-tailed Grassfinches, and others. The effect of such aviaries as these, also the others to be described in this article, is very fine, and the birds nest and can be studied under almost natural conditions.

In this aviary are to be seen foreign and British species "hobnobing" together in comparative amity, and indulging to the full in their natural habits, they however often choose an artificial nesting site, in or on which to construct their nest.

I was a delighted observer of the following species as they so disported themselves, and found the two days of my stay all too short for adequate observation :—Red-headed, Aurora, Gouldian, Pileated, and Slaty-backed Finches; Long- and Rufous-tailed Grassfinches; Red-whiskered Bulbuls (nesting): perfect specimens of the uncommon Indigo and Nonpareil Buntings; Ruddy Buntings; Pintailed Nonpareils; very interesting pair of Carolina Cat Birds; pair of very rare and as yet unidentified Olive-backed Thrushes; several species of Whydahs in exquisite condition, and having a very fine effect as they soared about with their long caudal plumes streaming behind; Waxbills of all sorts; Gold Sparrows, Diamond Doves, and Harlequin Quails. Of British species, among others, there were the following :—Cirl, Reed and Snow Buntings; Blackcap Warblers; White-throats; Lesser Whitethroats; Willow Wrens; Wheatears; Whinchats; Pied Wagtails; Siskins; Goldfinches; Linnets and Twites.

To an enthusiast in aviculture like myself, it was a surfeit of good things; moreover, I was able to study many of the British species named, at closer quarters than had been my privilege for many years.

The advantages of such an aviary cannot be overestimated, and, so long as the number of birds is kept down commensurate with the limits of the aviary, a very fine and natural effect will be maintained, but Parrakeets of any kind must not be introduced, or bushes and trees will soon disappear.

* * *

MR. SUTCLIFFE'S AVIARY: (Locality, Grimsby, Lincs.): This consists of a shed 14ft. by 6½ft., covered flight 14ft. by 7ft., and open flight 34ft. by 14ft. It runs along one end of a walled-in garden, and is a well sheltered, arranged, and constructed aviary; the flight consists of a gravel walk along front, lawn with border at back, planted with conifers and other evergreen bushes, the back wall being thickly covered with ivy; the shed is a substantial brick structure, well-lighted, and practically filled up with branches, forming a dense thicket, and, considering the admirable arrangements both indoors and out, I cannot help feeling surprised that breeding results are not much more numerous than they have been; two causes have mitigated against this, I think, viz., the number of species kept together (not overcrowded though) and the inclement season, of which the Eastern Counties appear to have felt the full effect.

I omitted to make notes of nesting birds, merely taking a list of its occupants, and some few months having passed since my visit, I can only call to mind actually seeing young of Greenfinches, White Java Sparrows, Long- and Rufous-tailed Grassfinches, but there were nests galore, many of which unfortunately got no farther than eggs. Here, also, there was a penchant for indigenous species, especially the more uncommon and insectivorous species; in fact, they were quite numerous, and were mostly in perfect condition. I was a delighted spectator as I watched many species at close range, of which one only gets a distant view, or merely a passing glimpse, when observing them in their native haunts. However, much as I would like to enlarge upon these, space will only permit me to give a mere list, hoping that at some future time Mr. Sutcliffe will write us a paper on the Rarer Softbills in captivity. Mingling with the foreign species, and making the whole most charming and varied, were to be seen: Yellow Wagtails, Hawfinches, Willow Warblers, Spotted Flycatchers, Whitethroats and Lesser ditto, Wheatears, Whinchats, Bullfinches, Greenfinches (with young), Goldfinches, Linnets, Twites, and several species of Buntings.

Of foreign species I noticed the following—the majority of which were in perfect condition, in fact there was scarcely a sorry looking specimen among them—Gouldian, Pectoral, Crimson, Diamond, Chestnut, Red-headed, Zebra, Ribbon, Slaty-backed, Yellow-rumped, Pileated and Parrot Finches; Grey and Green Singing Finches; Masked, Long and Rufous-tailed Grass-finches; Common and Green Avadavats, Waxbills in variety. Indigo and Nonpareil Buntings, these species have been so uncommon for many years, (*i.e.* since their importation ceased) that it is always a great pleasure to come across as well-coloured specimens, of these exquisite species, as these were. The Tanagers formed an imposing group, flashing to and fro in the sunlight like bejewelled gems, with a brilliance that practically beggars description . . . The species represented were: Superb, Blue, Scarlet, Olive, Archbishop and Tricolour. Nearly all imported species of Mannikins were to be seen, including the Rufous-backed; several species of Bulbuls were also included in the series (some nesting); Swainson's Sparrows; Pelzeln's Saffron Finches; Spotted Ground and Peaceful Doves; Harlequin and Chinese Painted Quails. While in a small Birdroom were several well-conditioned birds, such as Amazon Parrot, Pileated and other Parrakeets, Shamah, Hangnests, Black-cheeked Lovebirds, etc. I fear many rare species have passed unnoticed, owing to the excellence of the cover and the shortness of my visit. I may say, in conclusion, that the whole formed a series of some 200 birds; a collection of which any aviculturist might well be proud.

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MR. WILLFORD'S AVIARIES (Havenstreet, I. of W.) A description is not needed here, as photos, plans and "Notes of Breeding Results" have appeared in the course of the current volume. It was however my first opportunity of seeing the aviaries in summer garb, and the effect was very fine; especially in aviary No. 5, which is 50 feet square, a Laurel hedge runs round three sides of the same, relieved with nasturtiums and single white chrysanthemums in flower, while all the standards were clothed with hops in full fruit; the fourth side was a grass bank left to run wild, the whole area of centre of aviary being a well kept lawn, adorned with a fountain and numerous conifer and other evergreen shrubs; the effort being such as can not be adequately described in a word picture. The amount of insect life in this enclosure was very large; I saw several species of butterflies and moths, innumerable flies, and by the captures made by various inmates beetles, earthworms and the like were evidently unlimited. It was in this aviary that I sat almost immovable for fairly long periods on several days, during the course of my visit, and it is scarcely necessary to say that I was intensely interested in watching the demeanour of the various species under what were practically natural conditions; many of them came almost up to my feet and remained searching about for insects, etc.—words fail me to paint how charming was the picture of many species thus hopping about the grass, slipping up and down and in and out of the hop tendrils and other creepers, all busy, happy, active and apparently without a care; there was business about the method of many of them too, for they were foraging to meet the needs of a family. Under these conditions, I think I have realised for the first time the full beauty of a Lavender Finch, with other birds such as Bichenos, Ringed, Zebra, Cherry, Aurora and Cuban Finches, feeding from a bunch of millet scattered over the grass a few feet away, quite near hand too were fruit and comb containing wasp grubs; how busy round this (and with what fearlessness they went to work), were the lovely Silver-eared Mesias, Blue Grosbeaks, Jerdon's Accentors, an English Robin and the charming Yellow-bellied Liothrix; how interesting, too, to watch the demeanour of such species under such conditions. From these my eye was distracted to a group of Waxbills, just a little disputing, but all evidently very happy, for there was food and room enough for all; how exquisite they were—Common and Green Avadavats (the latter with young), Orange-cheek, Zebra and Grey Waxbills, Cordon Bleus, etc., now in the grass, now demolishing the millet spray. I had a comfortable chair and soft cushions, but it was not rest, every sense was exercised, now on the ground, now in the air, some evolution of the bird population was going on.

Thus passed before me, besides those already mentioned: Olive and Cuba Finches, Indigo and Black-headed Buntings, Red-headed and Dusky and Saffron Finches; White Java Sparrows, Diamond Sparrows, Crested Pigeons; Diamond, Passerine and Aurita Doves, and very many others.

To vary the experience and stretch the limbs a stroll was taken round the aviary; here on the grass grown bank were the squatting grounds of the Quail Finches, with some of this quaint little species squatting thereon—one passed from bush to bush, almost each one contained a nest with either eggs or young, and some fresh feature of the economy of bird life was revealed, as the busy population pursued their avocation of reproducing their kind. Mr. Willford in his "Nesting Notes," has made it unnecessary for me to go too close into detail, besides want of space cramps my pen and thoughtfulness for my readers prevents further digression. So without further description of my wanderings in the other aviaries and the impressions gathered there, I will merely remark upon one instance which interested me greatly and which I think will be of fairly general interest.

In one or two enclosures devoted to Green Budgerigars, I noticed several young and almost self-coloured Yellows. Seeing no adult birds of the Yellow variety about, I made enquiries both of the aviary attendant and Mr. Willford, and found that nearly all Mr. Willford's stock had been crossed more or less with the Yellow variety, though he has preserved no Yellows this season. I gathered that they had been produced (mostly single birds in a brood) in consecutive broods and from more than one pair. Though I have bred, and inbred them too, also crossing Greens and Yellows, and mating up the progeny, yet I have never had a Yellow produced in my aviary other than from Yellow birds. I shall be much interested in hearing from other members if they have had similar occurrences in their aviaries, and I hope Mr. Willford will catch one or two of them up to see if they have pink eyes, and also inform us to what extent the pure light yellow colouring is retained after the moult.

I must reserve other memories of these extensive aviaries and their inmates for stray notes as opportunity offers.

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MR. LEWIS'S AVIARIES (Ryde, I. of W.): Here again no description is necessary, as the aviaries were figured and fully described in May issue of current volume. Breeding results here have been very few, and very many aviculturists have fared the same, though this ill luck has not been along well-defined lines, as it has been very variable with aviculturists in the same area—

suffice it to say, attempts at nesting have been very numerous, actual successes but few—it is very difficult to give a reason for the following causes: young dead in shell, or forsaken by their parents when almost fledged—as variety of food and attention leave nothing to be desired; the losses through egg binding have also been very numerous; undoubtedly the weather has played a large part in these failures, and, contrarities in the same area, may possibly be accounted for by the fact that probably some aviaries have come in the full range of the wind and rain storms, etc., while others in the same locality have just escaped, or partially so, the full force of same. Be this as it may, all the birds, and a numerous and interesting series are represented here, were in excellent fettle and a credit to any aviculturist. As regards some of the individuals I have never seen better specimens of the respective species, notably Crimson and Gouldian Finches, Fire Finches, Cordon Bleus, and the like. A list of Mr. Lewis's birds have already been given, and I was much interested in this second look round; quite an interesting series of Whydahs are located in these aviaries, some handsome pairs of Parrots and Parrakeets, notably Senegals, Ring-necks, Gold-fronted and others, all in lovely plumage. Of Cardinals, too, there are a goodly array, and though they have not bred, this certainly has not detracted from their appearance. Mr. Lewis, after many failures, had at last got some Harlequin Quails hatched out and doing well; it was possible to observe them closely within the confines of the coop, and most interesting minute creatures they are too,—even within the small compass of the coop, they had to be looked for. There appeared every prospect of them being reared, as there was a good supply of live ants' larvæ near at hand.

The interest Mr. Lewis took in his birds, as well as the care he lavishes upon them, was amply illustrated in the plans which he had matured for their well-being during the inclement winter season; this was very evident as he talked them over with me.

* * *

MRS. ANNINGSON'S AVIARIES (Cambridge): As regards the Finch Aviary and Parrot House but little more need be said as they were fully dealt with in Vol. VII.; at the same time to fully illustrate Mrs. Anningson's method of closing her aviary up during the winter months I have reprinted an illustration figuring this, which appeared in quite an early volume of our Club journal. This will give a clear indication of the construction of the aviary, and its almost entire lack of what we call natural conditions, a plot of grass, weeds, trees and bushes. The only plant life in the aviary were a few evergreens in large tubs—at the same time the furnishings are admirable and evidently carefully thought out, full of cover as the aviary is, the centre is left free and unobstructed, and yet here, in an aviary quite dissimilar from the orthodox breeding aviary, I met with unexpected results.

BREEDING THE RED-COLLARED WHYDAH (*Penthetria ardens*). This is the first time that this species has been bred in this country, and our esteemed member is to be congratulated on so unique an event; but I had the satisfaction of getting a glimpse of the young birds, which were very vigorous and strong on the wing, resembling the female parent. The nest, a spherical one, with a sort of porch or lobby entrance, was woven to some branches close under the roof. Unfortunately, until the young were seen, it was not known that they were nesting, and so details as to incubation, etc. cannot be given. However, a close watch is being kept so as to see at what age they assume adult plumage. This success entitles Mrs. Anningson to the Club certificate and medal.

BREEDING THE PINTAILED WHYDAH (*Vidua principalis*). This is another first on record, I believe, and equally unique, unless my memory is playing me false; the only regrettable part of these episodes being the entire lack of breeding data, but in each instance it was seeing the young that announced the success, all we can hope to gain from these interesting occurrences is the age and method at and by which they assume adult plumage. Another certificate and medal.

All the Weavers appear to have been indefatigable nest builders, as the branch in photo amply illustrates, and I understand there is one brood at least of Red-billed Weavers (*Quelea quelea*) all but fully reared. The year 1909, whatever its weather record may have been, must ever stand out notable as the year in which three different species of Whydahs, viz., the Giant, Red-collared, and Pintailed, have been bred for the first time in the British Isles.

The Rearing of Hybrids: With most aviculturists these occur from the chance mating of odd birds of different species; this has been the case in these aviaries, and as the result two very interesting hybrids have been bred, viz.:

(1) White-headed Mannikin + Cutthroat (*Munia maja* + *Amadina fasciata*).

(2) Nutmeg Finch + Bronze Mannikin (*Munia punctulata* + *Spermestes cucullata*).

In each instance a very pretty hybrid is the result.

(1) This hybrid has a white back and head, and the other portions of the body marked and coloured like the Cutthroat, but no sign of a crimson collar.

(2) The body colour of this hybrid is brown, with a spangled ruff all round the neck and shoulders (very similar in its markings to the breast of the Nutmeg Finch).

The above two cases also gain the Club's certificate.

Sexing Banksian Cockatoos: Mrs. Anningson's specimen, the well known and much admired visitor to, and winner at, many shows. It will be remembered that a few years ago, many of those acquainted with this bird in its native wilds, denied the correctness of the recorded descriptions of the sexes, maintaining that the said descriptions were transposed and affirming erroneously that Mrs. Anningson's well-known and beautifully spangled specimen of many shows was a male; others holding the opposite view, and in October 1908, when I had the pleasure of looking over Mrs. Anningson's collection of birds, she assured me that, judging by its demeanour, she felt certain it was a male. Other owners of this grand species were of the same opinion.

Well! the question has now been settled once for all. Mrs. Anningson informing me, when visiting her on October 23rd of this year, that her bird had laid an egg (2″ × 1⅜″), and this morning I received a letter saying that the bird had laid another egg, slightly larger than the first; thus, for those who were in doubt, the plumage question of the sexes is now definitely settled.

It may be of interest to state that for a week preceding the

Photo by Dr. Anningson.

Weavers' Nests.

Mrs. Anningson's Aviaries.

Nest and Young of Indigo Buntings.

Mr. Suggitt's Aviaries.

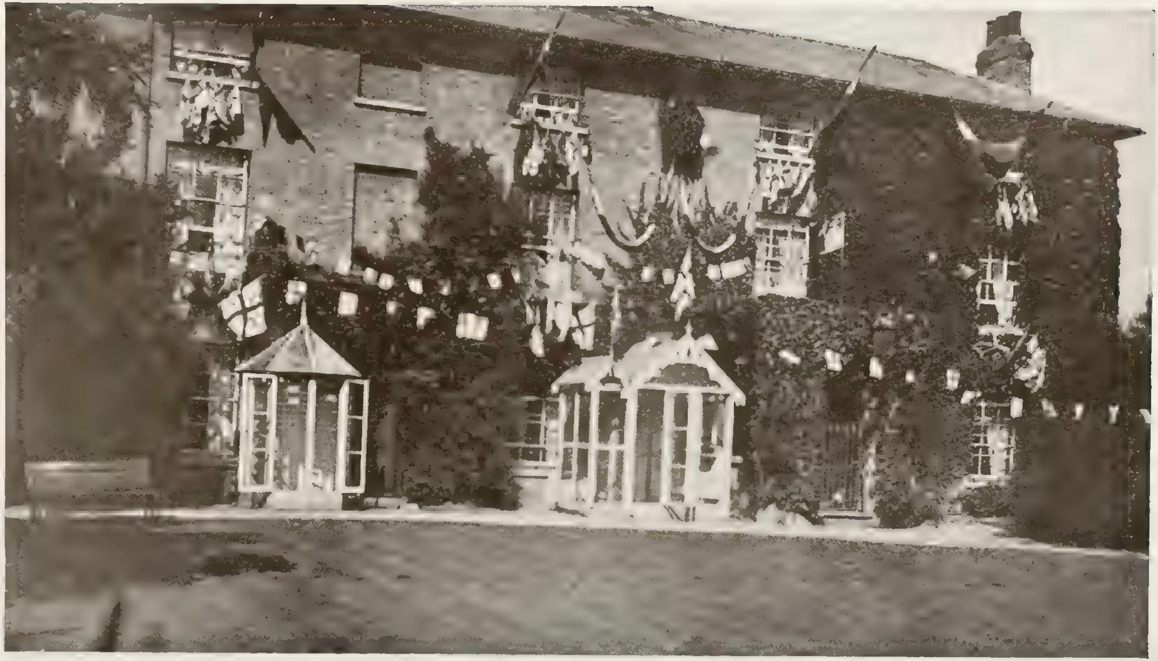

Photo by Dr. Anningson.

Two of Mrs. Anningson's Aviaries.

laying of the egg, the bird went off its food, was mopish, and apparently indisposed.

Before passing on, I must make mention of Dr. Anningson's Magpies and Jay. Never have I seen finer specimens, and when kept under such conditions, many of our well-loved native avifauna do rival for beauty many of their tropical cousins.

We reproduce herewith a photo showing two of Mrs. Anningson's aviaries, which are attached to the house, and, instead of being an eyesore, are an ornament. The photo was taken in coronation year with the house in gala attire. The aviary on the left of the photo is given up to Rosy-faced Lovebirds (*Agapornis roseicollis*) of which Mrs. Anningson has been quite a successful breeder during the several years she has kept this species. The sashes of this aviary are so arranged that, though one is continually open for ventilation, the wind never blows directly into it. It is kept closed at night and during severe weather.

THE TANAGERS' AVIARY: This is an erection of the year, and is the only one of Mrs. Anningson's aviaries that has not a concrete base, but it is a well-constructed and arranged aviary; the shed is well lighted, the roof and walls constructed of double boards with several thicknesses of felt between them; it can be closed entirely during severe weather. The flight is planted with Tamarisk and other evergreen bushes, and the ground overgrown with grass and weeds. The following ground plan* and end elevation will indicate its arrangement, etc. better than pages of text.

Here amid all the inclemencies of this summer (a specially trying one for fragile or delicate species) the undermentioned species have disported themselves amid the foliage (often sodden with wet) and have thriven in a surprising way. Here were a lovely pair of Necklace or All Green Tanagers (*C. viridis*) in exquisite condition and evidently quite happy and contented in their surroundings—I saw them on a recent sunny October morning, following days of pouring wet and raw cold—Mrs. Anningson tells me it is one of the prettiest sights she has ever had under observation, to watch these birds in early mornings searching over the Tamarisk bush for small insects, turning over the leaves in eager activity to secure as much of nature's provision as circumstances allow; it certainly was most interesting to watch how keen this species and others were to secure all the insect life obtainable. Other dainty creatures were a pair of Yellow-winged Sugar Birds, most certainly looking none the worse for having spent one of our most inclement summers out of doors. Those who are only acquainted with such species in cages would hardly know them amid their natural surroundings, so alert and full of vivacity and robust health are they. In this enclosure were also to be seen Olive, Violet, Scarlet and Archbishop Tanagers; Red-vented Bulbul, Gold-fronted Bulbul (*C. aurifrons*) and a pair of Parrot Finches; the effect of so many gorgeously apparalled birds flitting about together in the sunshine being very fine.

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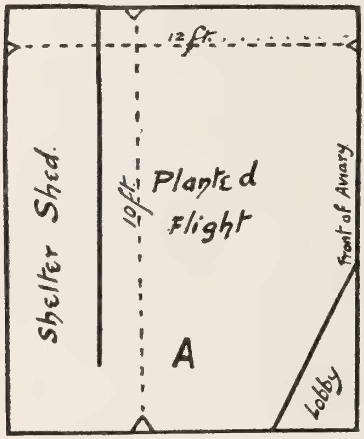
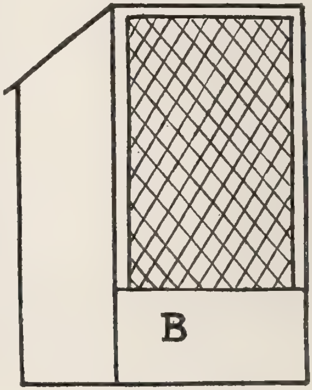
*See next page.



A. Ground Plan.



B. End Elevation.

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I venture to hope the foregoing will be found of interest, and also of some little assistance in planning, furnishing, stocking and managing existing or contemplated aviaries.

The Birds of Gambia.

By E. HOPKINSON, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

(*Continued from page* 217).

Malaconotus poliocephalus. GREY-HEADED BUSH-SHRIKE.

Range. Senegambia to Cameroons. (*H.L.*)

A strongly built bird mostly bright olive-green above and yellow beneath, with a blue-grey head sharply demarcated from the green of the back and the yellow of the throat, while the lores are a clear fawn. The beak, which is a powerful one and strongly notched towards the tip, is black, the feet grey and the irides burnt sienna brown. Length about ten inches.

These large "Katchabas" are not uncommon throughout the Protectorate and are to be met with all the year round, generally singly or in pairs in the larger trees. In such a position the bird's colouration makes it extremely difficult to see, even when one hears it's constantly repeated call-note, a drawn-out sweet, but rather monotonous double whistle, to guide one. The Mandingo names for the bird are Katchaba and Bubu-Kila. The first is also applied to other yellow birds, particularly to the Golden Oriole, for a large edition of which it may well be taken when seen among the branches at some little distance. The second name means "Bubu"-caller, and is derived from its note, which to the Mandigo ear at any rate suggests the word "Bubu."

M. sulphureipectus. ORANGE-BREASTED BUSH-SHRIKE.

Range. Senegal to Loango, Equatorial Africa. (*H.L.*)

This is our second "Katchaba" Shrike, and is much rarer than the above, than which too it is much smaller, being only some seven inches long. The head and face are yellow shading into greenish on the crown, and crossed at the sides by a black moustache-streak, the mantle is grey, the rest of the upper parts olive green ; below it is yellow deepening into orange on the breast. Bill and legs black, iris brown. Young birds are duller in colour and have a white instead of a yellow throat. They probably only visit Gambia to breed during the rains, at any rate the few occasions on which I have come across them have been at that season.

PRIONOPIDÆ.

Prionops plumatus. WHITE-PLUMED HELMET-SHRIKE.

Range. Senegambia to Nigeria. (*H.L.*)

A black and white bird, about the size of a Starling, with a long white crest and a circular pale yellow wattle round the eye. They are very common in the Gambia, where one meets with them in small flocks of 12 to 20 flitting (this word exactly expresses their movements) from bush to bush generally moving in a straight line across country. They search every part of the bush they are on for caterpillars and other insects, and then one leaves for the next bush or tree, where it will be soon joined by its companions, which follow one by one, chattering and calling to one another as they go, the last to leave generally making more noise and fuss than the others, as if calling to them not to leave him behind. They must breed quite early in the year, as I have had a young bird nearly fully feathered brought to me in April. Their Mandingo name is "Allala-Nansingo" (Allah's little boy), and it is considered by the Mahomadan blacks very wrong and unlucky to kill one of these birds.

CAMPEPHAGIDÆ.

Three species belonging to this family should be found in the Gambia, although I have so far to my knowledge never seen one of them. Their characteristic feature is the stiffening of the shafts of their rump feathers and general looseness of the plumage elsewhere. The bill hooked at the tip, is comparatively small and weak in *Campephaga*, stronger in *Graucalus*. Their food consists of caterpillars and various insects.

Campephaga phoenicea. CRIMSON - SHOULDERED CUCKOO-SHRIKE.

Range. West and North-East Africa, Uganda. (*H.L.*)

In this species the male is glossy Blue-black with crimson shoulder-patches, the female brown above barred with black, white spotted with black below. Length eight inches.

C. xanthornoides.

Range. North-East and West Africa. (*H.L.*)

Resembles *phoenicea*, but has yellow shoulder-patches.

Graucalus pectoralis. BLACK-CHESTED CUCKOO-SHRIKE.

Range. Tropical Africa. (*H.L.*)

This bird is considerably larger than those of the preceding *genus*, being 9½ inches long. It is light grey above, a very pale grey below, with a blackish throat and chest. It is said to much resemble a Cuckoo when seen flying.

CRATEROPODIDÆ.

Hypergerus atriceps. ORIOLE BABBLER.

Range. Senegambia to Nigeria. (*H.L.*)

A small bird about 7½ inches long with olive-green upper parts, yellow under surface and a black head, each feather of which is margined with white, so that a scaly appearance results. The bill is black, the legs dull yellow, the irides brown. These Babblers are not very common in the Gambia, but are, I think, resident all the year round. Whenever I have met with them they have been in pairs in the moderately thick bush which usually borders the Mangrove swamps. I had known the bird long before I was able to identify it from one of a pair shot at Essau in June, 1907, and till then had always called them in my own mind "Olive Bulbuls," as in their actions and ways they are most Bulbul-like.

Crateropus platycercus. BROAD-TAILED BABBLER.

Range. Senegambia to Gold Coast. (*H.L.*)

C. reinwardti. BLACK-CROWNED BABBLER.

Range. Senegambia to Gold Coast. (*H.L.*)

C. atripennis. BLACK-WINGED BABBLER.

Range. Senegambia. (*H.L.*)

C. leucocephalus

Range. N.E. Africa; Senegambia. (*H.L.*)

These four Babblers are probably all found in the Gambia, but only the first two are common; of the third I think I have once seen a small party, but the last I do not know at all. The two first, *platycercus* and *reinwardti* are common throughout the Protectorate from the outskirts of Bathurst right up the river. Both species are very social in their habits and go about in parties of about a dozen. In June, 1907, I shot a specimen of each, which I was able to identify from the Catalogue descriptions, and in the previous January I got at Koina, our most inland town, a young bird of *C. platycercus*, which I kept for a short time on white ants and similar food, but it did not survive long. *C. reinwardti*, easily distinguished by their dark heads are perhaps more partial to the neighbourhood of the river or the sea and to thicker bush than their cousins, *platycercus*, and though neither species can be called silent birds, they are certainly more noisy than they are, and well merit their native name, "Sonka-sonka," the Quarrellers, as this they always appear to be doing, if one can judge from their continual scolding chatter,

The following description of the differences between the three species I know, I take from the British Museum Catalogue:—

Bill horn or blackish. Breast uniform light ashy-brown (like the rest of the under surface), head and ear-coverts black, forming a distinct cap, which contrasts with the ashy-brown back. General colour above ashy-olive brown. *reinwardti* (length 9 inches).

Breast with rounded ashy margins to feathers, these edges still more distinct on the throat. General colour above brown with indistinct pale feather edges. *platycercus* (8.7 inches).

Bill yellow. Abdomen maroon-brown, head, throat and chest pearly grey forming a distinct mask. General colour above purplish brown. *atripennis* (9 inches).

(To be continued.)

BRITISH BIRDS.

Rearing and Nesting of Pied Wagtails.

(*Motacilla lugubris*).

By R. Suggitt.

On the 23rd May, 1908, while cycling through a village five or six miles from home, I saw a Pied Wagtail disappear into a hole in the side of a straw-stack with food in its bill. With the aid of a handy ladder I peeped into the hole which was about eight feet from the ground, and there sure enough was a family of six young Wagtails, almost fully fledged, and just the proper age to rear by hand. I decided to secure the lot, and when I repassed the spot on my way home, I took out the nest, tied it up in my handkerchief and thus overcame the difficulty of transit

Probably everyone who has undertaken the task of rearing a nest of young birds finds that the most unpleasant part of the undertaking is, that, the lusty demand for food commences at daybreak, and as the sun rises pretty early in May, I put the youngsters into an old hat and placed them on a chair by the side of my bed, each morning they woke me at the first sign of day, and at disgustingly frequent intervals afterwards. I cannot imagine a more effective alarum than six young Pied Wagtails.

My food mixture consisted of equal parts of best ants' cocoons, very finely ground silkworm cocoon, and crushed biscuit, mixed into a paste with cream, and in addition scalded gentles, half mealworms, and spiders. They were left in capable hands during the day time, and made splendid progress. They were practically independent at the end of a fortnight and I put them into the outdoor aviary where they fought savagely and mutilated each others plumage.

Owing to various causes, chiefly accidents, their number was reduced to two in the spring of the present year, but these two were a pair and on very friendly terms. About the end of May the male commenced to carry hay into a corner of the shelter shed, and a day or two later he was assisted by the female. The two of them accumulated a huge bundle of hay in the corner, but, after a week of hard work it did not bear the slightest resemblance to a nest. I placed a small heap of bricks in another corner of the shelter and advantage was at once taken of a suitable cavity which I had arranged in the pile. A typical, broad, shallow Wagtails nest was built, but the hen, instead of laying eggs in it, commenced to mope and have fits; she eventually recovered, but abandoned the idea of rearing a family, and as recorded on page 128 of the current volume of *Bird Notes*, a hen Snow Bunting laid three eggs in the nest without a protest from the Wagtails. The cock makes a pretty and interesting display to the hen, walking round her and singing with his bill almost touching his breast, and his wings and tail spread to their fullest extent, the latter trailing on the ground.

Both birds are at the present time in splendid plumage, and if the coming winter does not prove too much for them, I am almost sure they will nest successfully next spring.

A BELATED SWALLOW: It may interest readers to know that I saw a single Swallow here (Stubbington, near Lee-on-the-Solent), on November 3rd, hawking over a stretch of swampy ground adjoining the beach. It struck me as remarkable, for we had several degrees of frost that morning and the weather was both cold and stormy. I have not seen it since.

H. W. MATHIAS.

A PET SWALLOW: Our esteemed member Mr. Millsum has a pet Swallow, which I had the pleasure of seeing on November 13th. It is a vigorous specimen, in good feather and condition, still in nestling plumage, and does not yet show any indication of the moult. I gleaned the following facts:—

It was taken from the nest, when about three days old, about the middle of August.

It was reared on Mr. Millsum's usual soft food mixture, ground to flour and moistened to a pasty condition—it was fed from the end of a quill—for the first ten days no live food was given, afterwards chopped mealworms, but it was soon able to take these entire. For two months it was regularly fed by hand, even after it was able to fend for itself. At the present time it is fed on the usual insectile mixture, supplemented with a few mealworms.

W. T. P.

Editorial.

A YOUNG ORIOLE'S EXPERIENCE (*Mell Rice. Los. Angeles Cal.*) While on the Piazza on June 6th there happened to be in front of me a young Oriole, just out of the nest, on the ground not far away. It did not seem able to fly, was hopping about and trying to use its wings. It was very fascinating, and I sat down and watched. . . . Presently its male parent came and fed it, this was not easy as a pair of Mocking Birds, which had a nest in a tree close by, persecuted both parents and young—driving away the parents when they came to feed the young and only my interference prevented them maltreating the youngster. After about twenty minutes the male parent came again, appearing very excited and did not attempt to feed the young bird—he cooed to it in a very excited manner and suddenly turned its tail towards the little bird, when to my great astonishment it hopped on. The parent then proceeded to drag the little one away from the dangerous vicinity of the Mocking Birds. After being so dragged for about a foot, the little one slipped off, when the parent bird went through the same procedure and again turned his tail for the baby to hop on, which it did—at this juncture the Mocking Birds again swooped down, driving away the parent, and only my interference prevented their maltreating the young bird. At last the young bird managed to mount up the sloping branch of an acacia tree and to reach a secluded spot, but even here it was not safe from the Mocking Birds, and again I had to interfere.

I continued to keep guard for another half-hour. During this period the parent birds managed to coax their little one to a sycamore tree some fifty feet away. Here the Mocking Birds left them alone and I left them to their fate.

Compiled from " Bird Lore," July and August, 1909.

A PERSISTENT ROBIN (*Mrs. E. J. Walker, North Java, N.Y.*) I have a Robin that comes regularly every year and builds under my verandah in an American ivy, on the identical spot every time. I remove the old nest when empty. In 1908 she began the first nest April 14th, the second June 4th, and the third July 21st. The last bird flew away August 24th. I suppose someone killed the male bird while the female was sitting the last time, as I never saw him after that; the female raised her last brood alone.

From "Bird Lore," July and August, 1909.

BREEDING PIN-TAILED WHYDAHS (*Vidua principalis*): On another page is an account of Mrs. Anningson's success in breeding this species. I do not know of any actual record of its having been previously bred in this country, though the late Herr. Wiener states in his book "it is said to have been bred," but this is very vague and indefinite and if nothing more authentic can be found Mrs. Anningson will be entitled to the record.

HYBRIDS: If any member knows of any instance of the undermentioned crosses having been previous reared in captivity, will they kindly inform me of same of once?

White-headed Mannikin × Cutthroat.
Nutmeg Finch × Bronze Mannikin.

CRUSHED HOPES: From a recent letter I gather, that Mr. Mathias' hopes of rearing Blue-breasted Waxbills and Cordon Bleus were dashed to the ground, by that terrible storm of wind and rain on October 15th; the felting along one side of the aviary was displaced and the rain beat in and soaked the box in which the hen was incubating her eggs—she sat bravely through it all, though the nest was quite sodden; the birds with their nest box were removed to a cage—they very naturally deserted—there were four eggs, one broken, two infertile and one containing a young chick. Though accounted delicate neither of them appear any the worse for their rough experience.

Correspondence.

A FERTILE HYBRID.

SIR,—I saw yesterday a bird which interested me greatly, as it was the first instance I had actually verified of the progeny of a fertile hybrid.

A hybrid Dove, between a Turtle Dove and a Ring Dove was the father. This bird bears many of the markings of both parents and has the hooked beak of the Turtle Dove. It paired with an ordinary Ring Dove, and all the eggs the first season were clear. The second summer the pair built in a tree in the garden, and one egg in the first nest was fertile and hatched out. The young bird shows a few of the markings of the Turtle Dove, but has not the hooked beak.

Have you ever heard of this double hybrid being produced before?* (Rev.) JOHN M. PATERSON.

NESTING OF THE BLACK LORY.

SIR,—My young Black Lory (*C. ater*) is now fully reared and quite independent of the old birds. It is a very well grown bird and except for the white skin round the eyes and below the beak a casual observer would not distinguish any difference between it and the parent birds.

The young Lory has however some small blood red feathers in the neck. These feathers seem to mark the young of *C ater.*

The period of incubation was about twenty-one days, and the bird remained in the nest fully two months. When it left it was fully fledged and able to fly fully about two days after.

This bird was reared on my usual food, viz.: sop made of milk and barley water in which is mixed "B. C." food, with occasional biscuit or bread for a change. This is the first true Lory ever reared in confinement, and you may think it worth while to publish these notes. E. J. BROOK.

The Month's Arrivals.

THE BLACK-CHEEKED LOVEBIRD. About a year ago the suggestion was made in this column that this species would prove as easy and as profitable to breed as the Budgerigar. A short time since I spent an afternoon in the aviary of a well-known aviculturist who had bred about a score of young, commencing with three adults only. There has been a fall in the market price of course, the retail price in the German bird-market at present being 30/- per pair and even less in our own market. Other breeders have, however, not been equally successful. W.E.T.

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* If I remember rightly Mr. Newman has met with a similar success with crossed birds in his aviaries. It would be of great interest if he would kindly supply a few notes.—ED.

AN INDIAN CONSIGNMENT. A large consignment from Calcutta has recently reached the Continent. I was offered Mesias, Dhyals, Sibias, Cuckoos, Fruitsuckers *(Chloropsis aurifrons)*, two species of Hornbills and rare Shrikes. Some of these have found their way to the London dealers. At Mr. Hamlyn's I saw two Indian Cuckoos which, though not easy to identify in a dark cage and minus tails, appeared to be *Eudynamis honorata*. The male of this species is jet black with a green bill and pink eye; the female is speckled with white. It is parasitic on the Crow. Mr. Hamlyn's two males with their stout beaks, cobby shape and short tails look at first sight like some new species of Bower-bird. Mr. De Von had some Shamas and a nice Mesia. Curiously enough just two days before I came across this Mesia, one of our members asked me if I knew of one for sale, and as I had not seen any in the trade for years past, this seemed quite a coincidence. I notice, however, that one never has similar luck in coming across the bird one wants oneself. W.E.T.

* * *

A RARE BLACKBIRD. On the same date (21st October) Mr. De Von called my attention to some "South American Blackbirds." These were just like an English cock Blackbird except that they had bright orange shanks and a different note. They were so extremely dirty that it was impossible to even ascertain their real colour, still, as there was an apparent hen amongst them and the price was extremely moderate I speculated in a pair and having washed them well and wrung them out they proved to be something new—the Argentine Blackbird *(Turdus fuscatus)*. When I say "new" I mean that I personally have not come across them before; they may have been previously imported. The male is a brilliant intense black; his beak, feet and eyelids the brightest orange. The female is dusky or sepia, with brown throat, and eyelids of flesh-colour. The call-note begins with a *tuck-tuck*, identical with that of our Blackbird, but ends with a curious high whistle. W.E.T.

* * *

Melophus melanicterus. Mr. Cross recently sent me for inspection two Buntings which he called "Latham's Buntings." When I came to examine them they had been placed in a rather dark cage high up on the wall of the bird-room and appeared to me, coming indoors from the strong sunlight, to be rufous, but in other respects remarkably like the Hair-crested Bunting, a pair of which I had the pleasure of seeing in our Editor's aviary some time since. As I could not identify them I consulted our long-suffering Editor who, with his usual urbanity, proceeded to investigate various works of reference, but in vain. All that he could discover was that "Latham's Bunting" was a synonym for the Hair-crested. Then and not till then did I examine the birds again and was immensely chagrined to find that they were not rufous but black, streaked and splashed with cinnamon-brown—in fact they were immature males of *M. melanicterus*. The moral of this appears to be, firstly, before attempting to identify a bird, have a good look at it in a good light, and, secondly, do not worry the Editor or anyone else unnecessarily. Nevertheless the Crested Bunting is a very interesting species and very rarely imported. It is common in China and breeds in the Himalayas up to a considerable altitude, but seldom descends to the plains. The female is very unlike the male, being dark brown with some black striations and having only an insignificant crest. From *Die Gefiedrte Welt*, of 16th September, I extract the following: "They are only seen in the bird market now and again; Götz offered some for sale in the spring. I have a nice male bird, which is very lively and graceful. Like the rest of the Buntings, he eats mostly mixed seeds also soft-food but has a great preference for mealworms. He is not quarrelsome but sometimes likes to tease. You can always tell when he is angry or pleased by the way he raises or lowers his crest. The call note is long drawn and shrill. His song consists of four or five different notes and is chiefly heard in the early morning. It is a pity one cannot obtain this species more frequently as it is quite an ornament in an aviary." The illustration in *D. G. W.* is entitled "*Haubenammer*," but in the letterpress it is called "*Schopfammer*." Both these names mean the same thing, namely Crested Bunting.

AT THE ZOO. The beautiful little Flower-pecker *(Dicaeum ignicolle)* is coming into much better colour; it apparently eats nothing but fruit. The new Greater Bird of Paradise, presented by Sir W. Ingram, is a very big bird, but not yet in colour, and therefore hardly replaces the late lamented male. There is a very interesting Egyptian Reed Warbler *(Acrocephalus stentoreus)* in the Bird-house deposited by Mr. Bonhote, about which an interesting paragraph appeared recently in the *Field*. I cannot, however, quite follow the writer when he says that it is "scarcely distinguishable from the Great Reed Warbler." *A. stentoreus* has a remarkably long beak and its breast is dull greyish buff, whereas *A. turdoides* has the breast bright buff. W.E.T.

Post Mortem Reports.

(*Vide Rules*).

For replies by post, a fee of 2/6 *must be sent;* this regulation will not be broken under any condition.

CANARY. (M. Lock). Cause of death, enlarged and fatty liver and pneumonia.

AVADAVAT and young ZEBRA FINCH. (K. Brotherton). Both died from pneumonia. The seed was in excellent condition.

BUDGERIGAR. (Hayward W. Mathias). Cause of death, pneumonia.

YORKSHIRE Cock CANARY. (W. Smith). Cause of death, pneumonia.

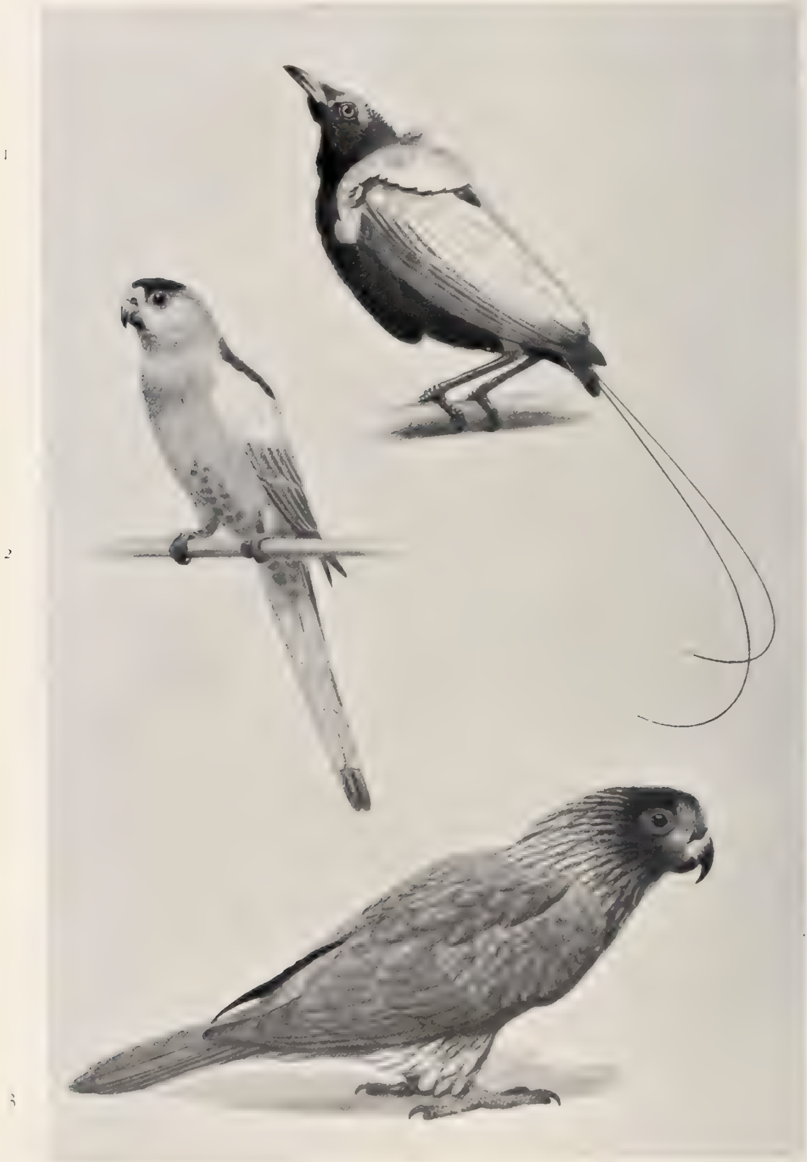
GREENFINCH. (Miss Brickwood). Cause of death, pneumonia.

WHITE JAVA SPARROW, STEEL FINCH and WEAVER. (Mrs. B. W. Hodgkin). In each case the cause of death was pneumonia.

VIOLET TANAGER. (H. V. Johnson). Cause of death, pneumonia and enlarged kidneys.

COCK ZEBRA FINCH. (T. R. Hadley). The intestine was ruptured, probably by an injury.

H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.



Drawn from life by H. Goodchild

Some Notable Exhibits at the L.C.B.A. Show.

1. Hunstein's Magnificent Bird of Paradise.
2. Golden-shouldered Parrakeet.
3. Red-fronted Lory.

Exhibited by
Mr. O. Millsum.

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DECEMBER, 1909.

BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Foreign and British Birds at the L.C.B.A. Show.

FOREIGN SECTION.

By W. T. PAGE, F.Z.S.

This, the coming-of-age Show of this enterprising Society, was well ahead of its predecessors and left nothing to be desired in the way of management, while the classification was the most liberal ever offered. This paper might well have been headed "Our Members' Birds," for out of 120 entries practically 100 were from F.B.C. members.

By far the finest, rarest, and most uncommon series of foreign birds were gathered together, that have ever been seen of recent years. Mr. H. D. Astley judged, and on the whole his awards were well received, and, in the opinion of the writer, were consistently placed. Mr. Millsum was the exhibitor of most of the actual novelties; Mrs. K. L. Miller's lovely Rainbow Bunting (see coloured plate in May issue of current volume), came in for almost as much notice as the Birds of Paradise; in fact it was equally beautiful and rare, if not the actual rarest bird in the show. Mr. Maxwell's beautiful series were almost all unique specimens, but have been shown by him for several seasons. Mr. Townsends' was a similar case, his Great Barbet being in even better condition than when previously shown. The condition of the whole of the exhibits exemplified how great has been the strides made in the conditions of foreign bird keeping, and the extent to which their requirements are now understood, nevertheless, there yet remains much to be learned regarding many species It will, I think, be best to take the Classes in proper sequence, and not merely place those containing the novelties first.

BUDGERIGARS, LOVEBIRDS, ETC. (14): 1, Townsend, Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot; 2, Mrs. K. L. Miller, Peach-faced Lovebirds; 3, F. Howe, Black-faced Lovebirds; V.H.C., Maxwell, Black-faced Lovebirds; Miss Greeven, Red-faced Lovebirds; H.C., Mrs. K. L. Miller, Guiana Lovebirds; Sladden, Passerine Parrakeets; C., Mrs. Hodgkin, Budgerigars; Watts, Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot.

Nothing actually novel in this class, but all the prize winners were exceptionally good, of rich colour and very tight in plumage. Mr. Townsend's Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot being quite one of the finest ever exhibited. Mrs. Miller's Guiana Lovebirds were the most uncommon. The pretty Black-faced Lovebirds having in the short space of little more than a year become quite common.

PARRAKEETS, LORIKEETS AND LORIES: 1, 2 and 4, Millsum, Golden-shouldered Parrakeets, Brown's Parrakeet and Red-fronted Lories; 3, S. Beaty, Pileated Parrakeets; V.H.C., Oakey, Crimson-wing Parrakeet; Maxwell, Elegant Grass Parrakeet; Rev. Raynor, Blue-bonnet Parrakeet; H.C., Mrs. Miller, Purple-naped Lory; Maxwell, Brown's Parrakeets; C.; Miss Francis, with Ring-necked Parrakeet and Pair of Cockateels.

A very fine series of rare and uncommon species, of which Mr. Millsum's Golden-shouldered Parrakeets (*Psephotus chrysopterygius*) were the only actual novelty, it being the first time a male of this species has appeared on the show bench, though Mr. Maxwell exhibited two females at the Palace Show 1898, and one female at the Balham Show in November 1899, and Mr. Hawkins also exhibited a female of this species at the Crystal Palace Shows of Nov. 1900, Feb. and Nov. 1901, and Feb. 1902, and Mr. R. Phillipps possessed a pair in 1897, but did not succeed in breeding them. I had the privilege of seeing Mr. Millsum's birds during a week end visit I paid him about a fortnight previously, and they struck me as being rather a fragile species, but very beautiful as to colouration and of graceful form. The description of the male is as follows: Frontal band and eye region light yellow; crown black; upper surface greyish-brown; rump and upper tail-covers light blue; tail dark olive green, dark blue, and tipped with black; a large golden-yellow patch adorns each wing, sides of face, neck and breast light blue, some portions of which are tinged with brilliant green; abdomen and thighs white, barred with brick-red. Slenderly built, length just over nine inches. Brown's Parrakeet (*Platycercus brownii*), a beautiful specimen of a rare species and in perfect condition. Red-fronted Lories (*Chalcopsittacus scintillatus*), a very fine pair, but not yet used to the narrow compass of a show cage—this species has only once previously appeared on the show bench—a grand trio. Other notabilities were a lovely Elegant Grass Parrakeet in beautiful plumage and very richly coloured, a most elegant and graceful species of which Mr. Maxwell may well be proud. Mr. Beaty's Pileated Parrakeets were very fine, but though they have now been used to cage life for several years, are still very unsteady; this I presume accounted for there being a solid top to their cage, which made it very difficult to observe them; they appeared to me to be two males, but a close scrutiny was not possible. Other good birds were the Rev. Raynor's Blue-bonnet, Mrs. K. L. Miller's Purple-naped Lory (which I did not see, as owing to ill health it had been removed before these notes were made).

PARROTS, COCKATOOS AND MACAWS (9): 1, Sp., S. Beaty, Hawk-headed Parrot; 2, Rev. Raynor, Meyer's Parrot; 3, V.H.C., Mrs. K. L. Miller, Cuban Amazons (pair) and Hawk-headed Parrot, in the order given; V.H.C., Mrs. Cooper, Black-headed Caiques; C., Miss Francis (3), Blue-faced Amazon, Lemon-crested Cockatoo, and Grey Parrot; C., T. Miller, a good Grey in beautiful plumage.

The prize winners were all very fine and all really uncommon species, but being well known, though not often to be obtained, do not call for description here. The Hawk-heads, Cuban Amazons and Meyer's Parrots (♀) are very beautiful and were all in exquisite condition. There was a coloured plate of the Hawk-headed Parrot in Vol. VI. *Bird Notes.*

VARIOUS (NAMED) COMMON SEEDEATERS (15): 1, Sp., Watts, a faultless pair of Golden-breasted Waxbills; 2, 3, H.C., respectively F. Howe, good pairs of St. Helena, Golden-breasted Waxbills and a fine Green Avadavat; H.C., Row, good Orange-cheeked Waxbills; no less than seven C's in the Class; Row, pair Cutthroats; Sladden, Orange-cheeked Waxbills; Botting (3), Golden-breasted Waxbills; Green Avadavats, and Zebra Finches; Mrs. Maher, Ribbon Finch; S. Beaty, Nutmeg Finches.

Though calling for but little comment or description, there is always a great attraction in this class, as illustrating what a beautiful series may be got together of the freely imported (so-called common) species, and for so little cost, and how beautiful they are. I know no more attractive spectacle than an outdoor aviary, with growing bushes and other plant life, stocked with Waxbills and the small Ornamental Finches.

RARER WAXBILLS, ETC. (6).: 1, Sp., 2, Maxwell, Violet-eared Waxbill and a Black-faced Waxbill, both absolutely perfect; 3, Willford, good Melba Finch; V.H.C., Miller, nice Violet-eared Waxbill; C., Miss Greeven, Lavender Finch.

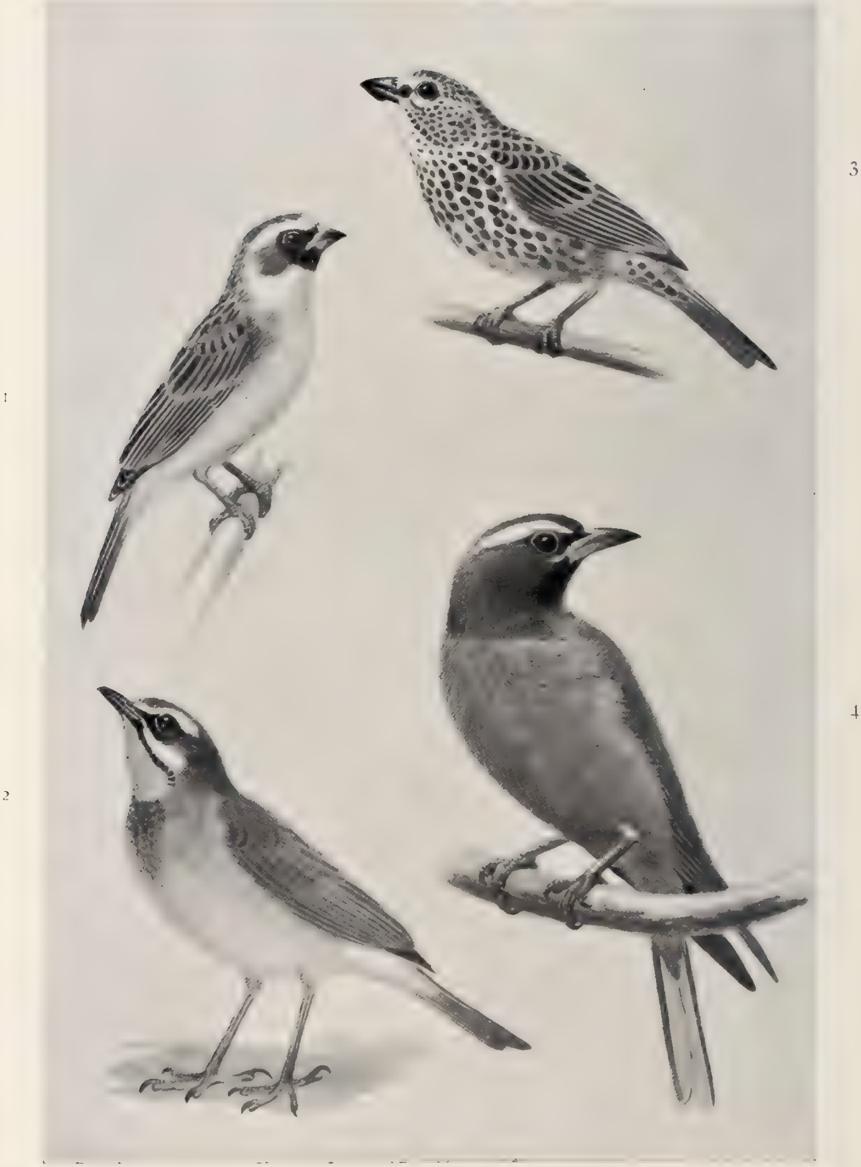
A very beautiful series, all well-known species, in perfect condition. One cannot help being surprised that this class was was not better filled.

GRASSFINCHES, WEAVERS, ETC (16): 1, Mrs. K. L. Miller, exquisite pair of Painted Finches, very much improved since last shown, and abundant proof that birds can be healthy and contented in cages if well cared for; 2, C. T. Maxwell, same species not so good as the preceding; 3, C. H. Row, Parrot Finches, very tight and good colour; 4, Mrs. Galloway, very rare Bearded Scaly-fronted Finches (*Sporopipes frontalis*), very fine pair but one of them was looking very seedy on Friday, but improved greatly the next day, their rarity merited a higher position; V.H.C., Meadows, Mrs. Galloway and Stockley, Parrot and Black-headed Gouldian Finches respectively; H.C., C. T. Maxwell, Long-tailed Grassfinches; C., Rattigan, Parrot Finch; Row, Black-headed Gouldian Finches; Mrs. Hodgkin, Rufous-necked Weaver.

An interesting class, of which the more notable species were the Bearded Scaly-fronted Finches and Painted Finches, the former, I think, has only once or twice previously appeared on the show bench. This species and the Scaly-crowned Finch should make good subjects for the aviculturist, neither of them having yet been bred in this country.

GROSBEAKS, TRUE FINCHES, ETC. (5): 1, 3, Mrs. Miller, one of the attractions of the Show, a beautiful Rainbow Bunting, 1st and medal for best members' bird in eleven classes, 3, Hooded Siskin, might have been placed before 2; Mrs. Galloway, Black-faced Serin; V.H.C., Townsend, Rock Bunting; H.C., Mrs. Hodgkin, Pileated Finch.

A small class, but made notable by Mrs. K. L. Miller's beautiful Rainbow Bunting, which was one of, if not the rarest bird in the Show. It does not call for description here, as it has been figured in colour and fully described in the current volume; suffice to say that, now it has safely passed the moult, it is more beautiful than ever, and that the colours are richer and deeper in hue than figured on our plate; it thus possesses a decided advan-



Drawn from life by H. Goodchild

Some Notable Exhibits at the L.C.B.A. Show.

1.	Black-faced Serin	*Exhibited by*	Mrs. Galloway.
2.	Ruby-throated Warbler ..	,, ,,	Mrs. K. Leslie Miller.
3.	Spotted Emerald Tanager ..	,, ,,	Mr. C. T. Maxwell.
4.	White-eyebrowed Wood-Swallow	,, ,,	Mr. S. M. Townsend.

tage over that old favourite the Nonpareil Bunting, as it does not lose the richness of its hues in captivity. Another beautiful species, which also has been previously described in our pages, was Mrs. Galloway's Black-faced Serin, in the writer's opinion the most beautiful of all the Serins, really a much to be desired species; the same may be said for Mrs. Miller's fine Hooded Siskin.

TANAGERS (8); Only a small number of entries, but nearly every one of them unique, although they have all been on the bench one or more seasons and consequently have already been described in our pages. Mr. Maxwell carried off most of the honours here, viz.: 1, Sp., 2, and 3, with four really grand birds, beautiful beyond description—Rufous-throated, Black-throated, Spotted Emerald and Maroon Tanagers in the order given; V.H.C., Mr. Townsend and Mrs. Maher, faultless Magpie and Tricolour Tanagers respectively; H.C., Mrs. K. L. Miller, beautiful Striated Tanager, not yet moulted out its tail or would have been higher, very uncommon.

SUGAR BIRDS, HONEYEATERS, ETC. (9): 1, V.H.C., H.C., Townsend wonderful Yellow-winged Sugar Bird; V.H.C., Red-eared Bulbul and H.C. Black-faced Sugar Bird (♀); 2, Millsum, Blue-winged Bulbul; 3, Black-faced Sugar Bird; V.H.C., Mrs. Galloway, Blue Sugar Bird; H.C., Rattigan, hen of the same species; C., Puck, Gold-fronted Bulbul.

All truly gorgeous birds, but Mr. Townsend's Yellow-winged Sugar Bird is one of the richest coloured specimens I have ever seen, its condition faultless, too beautiful for description; it is now in its fourth season. Very welcome was the re-appearance of the Blue-winged Bulbul, a species which has not been seen on the bench for some years, and Mr. Millsum is to be congratulated on so beautiful a possession. All the genus *Chloropsis* (Green Bulbuls) are unsurpassed as cage-birds, and are equally beautiful and desirable in the aviary.* Equally beautiful were the other exhibits and all in most excellent condition.

A.O.S. SMALLER THAN KING BIRD OF PARADISE (14): One of the most interesting Classes seen for many years, containing many unique and beautiful birds. 1, Sp., Millsum, a Levaillant's Barbet, unique on the Show bench, and one of the only two ever imported; 2, 3, Maxwell, White-capped Redstart and Great-billed Flycatcher, two perfect specimens; 4, Dewhurst, pair of Coleys; V.H.C., Puck, good Shama; Miller, Verditer Flycatcher (♀), a great rariety; Mrs. Miller, Ruby-throated

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* Of course they must not be associated with small species.

Warbler, a rare and beautiful bird; Mrs. Maher, Japanese Red-sided Tit; Millsum, Indian Nuthatch, unique and interesting; Townsend, a charming specimen of the White-eyebrowed Wood Swallow Shrike, the delicacy of coloration and sheen of plumage of this bird has never been surpassed; H.C., Mrs. Maher, good pair of Pekin Robins, but quite outclassed among so many rarities.

Mr. Millsum's Levaillant's Barbet (*Trachyphonus cafer*) is a most interesting species, with strangely and quaintly marked and mottled plumage; of bold and fearless demeanour, readily becomes tame and is really a most desirable species. It is a native of the Transvaal.

Description: Excepting the crest, which is black, most of the feathers of the head are pale yellow, finely margined with red and having a small blackish patch in the centre of each; upper back and wings black, sealed and barred with white; lower back, rump and upper tail coverts yellow, much mixed with blackish, and the tail coverts tipped with red; tail black, barred and tipped with white; the undersurface is yellow, with a black band across the chest and a number of red striations on the breast. Mr. Maxwell's Great-billed Flycatcher and Mrs. K. L. Miller's Verditer Flycatcher (♀) are both unique to the show bench, and great rarities, the former is a beautiful bird, a typical Flycatcher as to form; its upper surface is a pleasing soft cobalt blue, underneath it is deep buffish-yellow; the latter is a pale bluish-silvery-grey, would have made a grand exhibit if the cock bird had lived. Mr. Millsum's Indian Nuthatch was another unique exhibit, a typical Nuthatch in form and demeanour, with plumage of French-grey above, chestnut beneath, and white facial patches. Other interesting exhibits were Mrs. Maher's Japanese Red-sided Tit; Mr. Maxwell's lovely White-capped Redstart, and last, but not least, Mr. Townsend's lovely Wood Swallow Shrike, which for purity of colour, silky and sleek plumage has never been surpassed.

A.O.S. Larger than and Including King Bird of Paradise (9): All that has been said of the previous Class may be repeated here with emphasis with the three prize winners standing well ahead of all other competitors. 1, Sp. for best foreign bird in the Show. Millsum, Hunstein's Bird of Paradise, another "first appearance" on the Show bench, and a great sensation; 2, Maxwell, King Bird of Paradise, now in its third show season, and in the most superb condition; 3, Townsend, now well known, but unique Giant Barbet, very tame and much improved ; V.H.C., Sandy Mexican Green Jay ; H.C., Dewhurst, Glossy Starling ; C., Shepherd, Greater Hill Mynah ; Rattigan, nice Red-headed Starling.

The outstanding feature of this class was the Birds of Paradise ; these were the great attraction to the visiting public, having been noticed in the daily press, numbers visited the Show simply to see these, but the aisles occupied by the foreign birds were all largely patronised. The sensation was Mr. Millsum's unique Hunstein's Magnificent Bird of Paradise (*Diphyllodes magnifica*). It is a native of the Malay Archipelago ; beautiful and unique as this bird is, I only purpose giving a brief description here, as Mr. Goodchild is preparing a coloured drawing, and it will appear in an early issue of *Bird Notes* with a full description. The plumage is very silken and lustrous, and its hues change materially under the play of light.

Description : The top of the head is golden-brown, with the extreme tips of the feathers picked out in dusky or ruddy-bronze ; the upper back is scarlet, passing into the brown of the middle and lower back ; the mid-back is variegated, with some golden feathers tipped with brown ; at the bottom of the nape of the neck a lovely double cape of straw-yellow lies upon the scarlet of the upper back ; this cape it has the power of raising, at such times it appears like an out-spread fan growing out of the nape of the neck ; the wings are rich-brown and golden-orange ; the tail, apart from the two wires is insignificant, the feathers being barely an inch long, the two wires are metallic green and webbed only along the inner edge ; they cross each other, curl outwardly and then inwardly again, forming almost complete circles on either side ; the under-surface is purplish-brown, the shield over the throat and breast is metallic green, changing under the influence of light to purplish or bronzy ; down the centre of this shield, extending down the throat to top of the breast is a narrow strip of scaled feathers of the richest of peacock-greens, glistening like the scales of a snake ; the breast shield is narrowly edged with peacock-blue. Total length, excluding the tail wires about 7½ inches.

The King Bird of Paradise is of quite another type of beauty ; it is now in its third season, and Mr. Maxwell is to be congratulated on keeping it in such exquisite and flawless condition. Its beauty cannot be described,—never has a bird been shown in better condition,—it has been described on several occasions, and it must suffice to tamely say, that the glistening and glowing scarlet of the upper surface, and the spotless purity of the white of the lower surface, relieved by its orange bill and cobalt legs and feet, attracted for this regal bird universal admiration.

Mr. Townsend's fine specimen of the Great or Giant Barbet has much improved since last season, it was in grand feather and very steady, in fact, very tame for this species. It was figured in colour in No. 1 of current volume, and therefore does not call for further comment here.

I hope I have not wearied my readers with these notes, but my leisure has been so limited that I have had to write them and leave them without any revision whatever. One could write pages without exhausting the subject, but I must perforce leave it for some more fitting opportunity to enlarge upon their wild life, food, treatment, &c., and their demeanour under the conditions of aviary life.

In conclusion, I must congratulate the L.C.B.A. upon the huge success which has attended their enterprise, and also our members and the other exhibitors upon the truly "great" series of birds got together (which I fear must stand unsurpassed for some time to come), not merely upon their rarity, but upon the generally excellent condition of the whole of the exhibits.

* * *

The Club Medals and Specials were awarded as follows:—

Cup Medal	Hunstein's Bird of Paradise	O. Millsum.
Club Silver Medal	Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot	S. M. Townsend
,, ,, ,,	Rainbow Bunting	Mrs. K. L. Miller.

Specials given by Members of F.B.C.:

Silver Model of Cockatoo	Hawk-headed Parrot	S. Beaty.
Medal or 5/- cash	Golden-breasted Waxbills	R. J. Watts.
Medal or 5/- cash	Violet-eared Waxbill	C. T. Maxwell.
China Bowl	Levaillant's Barbet	O. Millsum.
Gold Centre Silver Medal	Rufous-throated Tanager	C. T. Maxwell.

L.B.C.A. Diplomas:

Rainbow Bunting	Mrs. K. L. Miller.
Yellow-winged Sugar Bird	S. M. Townsend.

BRITISH BIRD SECTION.

By H. Goodchild, M.B.O.U.

While the "Open Foreign Bird Section" was an unqualified success, the British Bird Section, if not a failure actually, was, with a larger entry, not up to the standard that the generous classification provided by the management might have warranted one to expect. Speaking as a member of the British Bird Club, and also as an Ornithologist, I cannot but regret that several of the classes which would have been of the greatest interest to Ornithologists, had to be cancelled owing to a paucity of entries. Thus, three classes for Insectivorous Bird, A—Resident (Class 144), Hen birds (Class 148), and all other species (Class 147) were lost.

The class that, as a student of Palæarctic bird-life in its broader sense, as distinguished from a British bird student pure and simple, would have interested me most, was that for "Any species of European bird not included in the National British Bird Club's list. Such a class might have included many birds of great interest,—birds that have rarely, if ever, visited our shores (where they would almost certainly be shot on sight if they were seen by collectors) but which might be characteristic of many a beauty spot on the continent of Europe.

Of the eighteen classes which remained (totalling less than 200 entries) after the cancelling had been done, only a few were of any special interest to Ornithologists, as the first ten (classes 128 to 137 inclusive) were devoted to the commoner species of seed-eating birds; the only class in the series of interest to Ornithologists being that devoted to Hawfinches, containing eight birds (class 129). These ten classes contained some hundred birds, and while I cannot help admiring the skill, patience, and knowledge—not to say love,—that the exhibitors show in bringing wild caught birds into such perfect condition and tameness, I cannot, as a *naturalist*, but deplore the tendency to mar the natural tints of our native birds by the internal dyeing called "colour-feeding." Where this treatment is resorted to in order to *retain* the natural colour either of the plumage or the soft parts (as I am assured by experienced exhibitors is necessary in the case of the bill of the Chough and the male Blackbird) one can commend it, but where the effect is to turn the pure yellow of a Siskin, Greenfinch or Yellow Bunting into a sort of orange, there the effect is an eyesore to one who is a naturalist and an ornithologist.

Of the remaining classes, that for "All other species of Finches, Buntings, or Grosbeaks, Resident or Migratory" (Class 138) contained a nice Lapland Bunting, shown by Mr. Francis, which was awarded third prize; a charming Cirl Bunting, belonging to Mr. V. Wynn, who makes a speciality of Buntings, albeit this was the only one he showed in this class; a Snow Bunting, for which Mr. Lowne was awarded second prize; a Reed Bunting (Mr. R. J. Howe's); while our member, Mr. S. Beaty, got first prize with a Corn Bunting.

The class for all species of Hens of the *Fringillidæ*, (No. 139, with 17 entries) contained a Crossbill, which won third for Mr. Lowne (who also showed a Snow Bunting); a Mealy Redpoll, three Hawfinches, a Siskin and a Brambling, while Mr. Wynn showed hens of the Snow, Reed, and Yellow Buntings.

Passing to the section for insectivorous birds, containing less than sixty entries, we find the most interesting birds in the Show. Class 140 (with 9 entries) for Song Thrush, Blackbird, or Starling, calls for no special remark; but Class 141, for "All Species of Larks or Pipits, Resident or Migratory" (with 10 entries) contained a Rock Pipit, which was too wild to be quite satisfactory as a caged bird, shown by Mr. R. J. Howe; a Shore Lark, nice and tame (awarded second prize and exhibited by Mr. Lowne); several Tree Pipits and Skylarks.

The Class for Chough, Jay, Magpie, or Jackdaw, had one Chough (Mr. C. T. Maxwell, awarded first prize), two Magpies and two Jays. The colour of the beak of the Chough seemed to me too intense and deep to be natural, although the bird was in the beautiful condition usual with this exhibitor's birds.

The Class for Albino and Pied or "rare-feathered" British Birds, contained a beautiful Starling, of a pale silvery grey colour all over, with the spangling white, and which one could not but admire; while Mr. Maxwell's white Robin was absent, and our genial member, Mr. W. Swaysland, showed a Silver Lark. Class

145, for Blackcap or Nightingale, had but one Blackcap, but was compensated by the presence of no less than seven specimens of the "Queen of Song." Class 146 was saved from cancelling by the five entries it contained. Amongst these "Migratory Insectivorous Birds," first and foremost came the Grasshopper Warbler, probably the most interesting British bird in the Show, from an ornithological standpoint, exhibited by Mr. S. L. Cocks, of Peterboro'. This bird was perfectly tame and steady, and not even the intent gaze necessary to sketching its portrait towards the close of the Show, seemed to disconcert it. The cage it was in, with the perches put low, enabled one to see how this bird is used to walking amongst the undergrowth of tangled brambles and herbage, as the bird seemed to simply bend down and slide underneath them with no discomfort or inconvenience. Mr. C. T. Maxwell showed a beautiful Black Redstart and a Yellow Wagtail, the latter seeming to me to be one of those birds which had been "colour-fed." Mr. Lowne showed a charming Pied Flycatcher, and he also had a Black Redstart in this class.

The Classes for members of the London Cage Bird Association were but poorly patronised; the only Finches or Buntings worthy of note were the Hawfinch, and the Snow and Cirl Buntings in Class 157, while in the class for the smaller insectivorous birds, Miss Shepherd had entered a Pied Flycatcher and a Bearded Tit, but both were absent.

The birds one missed were the Woodpeckers, Wrynecks, Tree Creepers, Shrikes and Tits, that in other Shows had adorned the benches; but as the Show as a whole was a great success, and considerably in advance of any previous year in the matter of entries, we may hope to see the next one with the British birds present in hundreds, of a quality to vie with the magnificent display of exotics that graced the benches at the "coming of age" show in November, 1909.

Birds in and about the Station (Bakloh).

By Capt. G. A. PERREAU, F.Z.S.

THE INDIAN WHITE-EYE.

(Continued from page 221.)

The attempt to meat off the first pair was made at first with live mealworms, insect food and ripe wild cherries. Cherries only were eaten and apparently this was not enough, for the hen died. I noticed that the cock drank a good deal, so I took away the water, substituting bread and milk. He took to the milk at once and when he found that the milk-soaked bread was good and later that sponge cake was better still, I had no bother with the other White-eyes.

They are very amusing to watch at the start of a shower. I have several nice tipari (Cape gooseberry) bushes in the aviary. The leaves are fairly large and somewhat hairy and so hold water fairly well. At the first few drops, down come the White-eyes and suck the water off the leaves. I don't know whether the leaves impart any flavour to the water or not. As the leaves get wetter the little birds have a regular bath on them. My Passerine Parrakeets and Hanging Parrakeets also make good attempts at following their example, but the leaves are hardly strong enough. Only the latter suck the water off the leaves. There is nothing strange in this method of bathing for Parrakeets, but I was surprised to see White-eyes doing it, more especially as I have often seen them both in freedom and captivity taking a bath in the ordinary way.

My present birds do not seem nearly as keen on insects as my old ones, which is a pity as regards taming them. They simply disregard my presence in the aviary, but show no signs of greeting me as a tit-bit giver, as most of my insectivorous birds have done in a very short time. I ought perhaps to have kept them caged longer. Probably too, the hill White-eyes are less insectivorous than the Plains ones, simply from force of circumstances.

They seem to be fairly frequently imported, but few people seem to have them. Last year at home I saw a good many birds, but only two of this species; they were beauties. They look such delicate little birds (which they are not, according to my experience) that I can hardly help thinking that many, like my hen, fall victims to "higher aviculture," being given a diet of mealworms and a powerful insect food. My present birds get bread and milk, cake and fruit, if there is any to be had. Of course they pick up a few live insects for themselves, but not many I fancy, and they get practically nothing from the net-sweepings as they never come down for them and the flock of breeding Grass-finches and Waxbills leave few escapes and those the Quail soon bag. By the way, were I a grasshopper I could imagine no worse death than to be eaten piecemeal by a Waxbill.

Of course the conditions under which they are usually shipped are enough to make any bird delicate. In May last, Mr. Kennedy saw many cages of this bird about to be exported. They were dreadfully overcrowded, dozens almost hundreds to a China bamboo cage. I have watched the advertisements in the home papers, but fancy very few arrived and those would probably be in poor condition. I wonder common sense does not stop this over-crowding. Even the Pekin Robin cannot be benefited by it.

In a cage my diet would probably require supplementing occasionally with live stuff, but I do not recommend mealworms in this case. Hard boiled egg would probably be appreciated and prove sufficient. My old birds were very fond of maggots, the small variety.

It would be hard to get more fascinating pets than these dainty little mites. I hope I shall not run short of phrases like this as our Indian Soft-bills require them. Anyhow our little friend with his soft pleasing call-note with which he can express so much can hardly be over-praised.

HANGING PARRAKEETS.

On going over some old Bombay Natural History Society Magazines I came across a letter which may interest some of our members. I quote it in full.

"In the 'Fauna of British India,' 'Birds,' Vol. III. p. 262, Mr. Blandford says that *Loriculus vernalis* lays its eggs 'in a hole or hollow of a tree without any nest.' My limited experience has been different from this. Last year I recorded in the Journal the taking of three nests of *Loriculus indicus* in Ceylon, in each of which the eggs were deposited on a thick pad of green leaves and halves of leaves torn off lengthwise along the midrib, and to-day I found a nest of *L. vernalis* in which the same material was again used to form a layer half-an-inch in thickness at the bottom of the hollow. I enclose for your inspection a sample of these pieces of leaves, bitten into shape by the birds.

"An old convict jemadar tells me he has seen lots of nests of the bird, and that it always makes a nest of green leaves, and as this has been the case in the four nests of the two Indian species which I have taken, I am inclined to think that this lining of the nest-hole is the rule and not exceptional, as I imagined when I took my first nest of *L. indicus.*

"Lorikeets sit close, and when disturbed on their eggs utter a long-drawn querulous note like 'Cheé-eë.' Perhaps other members of the Society will give their experience of the nesting of these birds common as the Lorikeets are, there is very little on record about their nidification.

Port Blair, 2nd February, 1898. A. L. BUTLER."

So few Parrots do anything in the nest-building line that I am rather surprised that Mr. Butler's interesting letter elicited no further information from members of the above Society. I have not access to the "Ibis," but fancy that *Loriculcus* presents a good field for the observations of the aviculturist. Trying them in an outdoor aviary, if done with care, would not prove so risky an experiment as is commonly imagined and I think that our exhibiting members would find it well worth trying.

(*To be continued.*)

Nesting of the Black Lory.

(*Chalcopsittacus ater*).

By E. J. BROOK.

Rather over two years ago I acquired three Black Lories (*C. ater*), these were brought from New Guinea by Mr. Goodfellow for Mrs. Johnstone.

One of the three still showed the small blood red feathers about the head and neck, a sign that it was a young bird. In the spring of this year two eggs were laid in the box in which

Mr. E. J. Brook and his Black Lories.

these birds always sleep, but they proved to be clear and were removed.

Some weeks later, two more eggs were laid, but as serious incubation did not commence for fully a week after the appearance of the second egg, we never expected the eggs to come to anything. About a month after this my man thought the eggs should be removed and the box cleaned ; his astonishment was great when, on lifting the lid, he discovered one bad egg and a young bird about one week old.

The young Lory grew well, but remained in the nest for a very long time, quite three months I think. The only difference between the young bird and the old ones is the few red feathers about the neck and ears, and the white skin round the eyes and above and below the beak.

My ordinary food, consisting of sweetened milk and barley water made into sop with "B. C." food, was used all the time the young bird was in the nest ; which proves, I think, the suitability of this food for feeding Lories.

The young *ater* is a strong, well-grown bird, and in the most perfect health. I think I can now distinguish the different sexes of these birds, the colouring of the eyes being slightly different.

Diseases of Birds.

By Henry Gray, M.R.C.V.S.

(*Continued from Vol.* VII).

I.

MANGE, SCABIES, SCALY-LEG OR SCALY-BEAK.

Mange is a term given to a class of contagious skin diseases of animals due to an acarus or mite. When it affects sheep it is denominated *scab* ; and people, *itch*.

The mange-parasite causing the sarcoptic mange, affecting the legs or beak of the Fowl, Turkey, Guinea-fowl, Pheasant, Partridge, Gouldian Finch, Goldfinch, Bullfinch, Pintail Nonpareil, Parrot, Parrakeet, and other cage-birds is the *Sarcoptes mutans*.

It is a microscopical mite, very much smaller than the cheese-mite, and has a rounded form, and in the female, when standing on its four pairs of legs, the legs are not well seen. The male is about half the size of the female; has four pairs of legs that can be easily seen from the dorsal surface of the body; and is devoid of copulatory suckers.

A recent writer on the "Diseases of Poultry," says it is not a common disease in this country; but my experience is that is a *very common* malady, especially in adult birds, not only of the farm-yard, but also aviary and cage.

In poultry it generally affects the legs, to which it gives after a time a coarse scaly and enlarged appearance, and hence it is commonly known in this country as "scaly-leg." It may, however, occasionally attack the head at the same time.

It is seen more in some classes or breeds of birds and poultry than others.

The legs have a lumpy appearance due to the accumulation of greyish yellow scales, in which the parasites are found in all stages of growth.

In cage-birds it is usually found affecting the beak, to which it gives a roughened yellowish-grey lumpy appearance, as if a mass of ochreous clay had been plastered on the organ.

It is a contagious disease, but mostly runs a slow course. It is introduced by a newly-purchased bird affected with the complaint.

The parasite can only be seen by the aid of a microscope. Some of the scales should be scraped off, placed on a glass slide and then put under the microscope. The parasite, however, can be made out much better by dissolving the scales by the addition of caustic potash, and the fatty material by ether.

By perseverance the disease may be completely eradicated. Strict isolation and thorough disinfection and cleanliness must be observed.

The poultry-house, including perches, nesting-boxes, and, in fact, the whole of the woodwork should be scraped and afterwards scrubbed well with a solution, containing one part of Jeyes' fluid to twenty of water; or freely painted over with a very cheap but, at the same time, one of the most effectual remedies, not only for the destruction of this parasite but all others. This remedy is known as "the green creosote oil of commerce"; it is largely used in the pickling of railway sleepers and other woods

The chlorinated lime—1 lb. to the gallon of water—is also a good and cheap parasite killer. It has, however, the disadvantage of giving off the chlorine, which escapes in the air and, therefore, of course, soon losing its action.

In the case of bird-cages they may be washed with Jeyes' fluid or brushed over with ordinary oil of turpentine.

In order to treat the bird effectually no expensive remedy is needed. The ordinary petroleum or paraffin oil brushed on the affected parts daily, equals all other known medicinal agents. Care, however, must be taken with cage-birds, none of the dressing should be allowed to run on to too large a surface of the healthy skin or on to the feathers. If paraffin should be objected to on account of its odour, equal parts of Peruvian balsam and glycerine may be used in place of it.

All the affected birds should be treated simultaneously, and the disinfection of the habitations only carried out after the birds have been dressed a few times.

Prevention.—Be careful and not buy birds with a scaly condition of the legs or beaks.

II.

BODY OR FEATHER-SHEDDING MANGE.

There is another kind of sarcoptic mange affecting birds. It attacks the body and causes the feathers to fall out. It is due to an acarus or mite termed the *Sarcoptes laevis*. The female has none of the prominences as seen on the back of the *Sarcoptes mutans*; but the male has two copulatory suckers. It is a much smaller parasite than the one previously described. There are three known varieties of this species, viz.:

Sarcoptes laevis var. *columbæ*.
" " " *gallinæ*.
" " " *phasiani*.

The parasite is found at the base of the feathers, and is seen affecting the rump and gradually spreading to the thighs, back and abdomen. It also attacks the neck and head.

There is irritation, which is accompanied by a quantity of scurf and shedding or plucking out of the feathers, which frequently break off close to the surface of the skin, and the remaining part becomes a mass of powdery material. Where the feathers fall out the skin is left smooth. It does not, as a rule, seem to cause much disturbance to the bird whose health is generally maintained. It may, however, diminish egg production. In the cock it is generally more severe than in the hen.

As a rule, the tail and wing feathers are left. The disease is chiefly seen in the spring and summer, and may disappear in the autumn to re-appear next spring. It is probably conveyed by the cock as the vent-region is the part that is nearly always first invaded.

The disease is often mistaken for an abnormal or soft moult or feather-eating.

A feather in the affected region should be pulled out and the fine scales or powdery material on the neck of the feather put on a glass slide and examined under the microscope, when the parasite, if present, will be found.

It is a very contagious disease and spreads very rapidly. It is generally introduced by newly-purchased birds. It attacks principally the fowl, pigeon, and pheasant, but may also be seen in other classes of birds.

As to disinfection, the same treatment recommended for the "Scaly-leg mange" is applicable here. But as the body must be treated all over to ensure an effectual destruction of the parasite, a greasy, or irritating remedy like paraffin, as advised for scaly-leg would be injurious if not fatal to the birds. To obviate this risk one must use a simple yet thoroughly trustworthy agent. For this purpose none is so cheap as the sulphurated lime lotion, which anybody can make. It is composed as follows:

Sulphur	1 lb.
Freshly-slaked lime	2 lbs.
Water	1 gallon.

Gently heat this mixture until it becomes a golden yellow colour, then allow it to cool. Decant off the clear liquor.

When this is going to be used it should be mixed with as much, if not twice as much, warm water. The birds should be dipped into it, taking care none is swallowed or allowed to get into the eyes. In cold or damp weather the birds should be dried in front of a fire and kept warm until they have thoroughly recovered from the immersion. The only objection to this remedy is that it smells like rotten eggs.

Petrol is also a good remedy, but somewhat dangerous to the bird and its attendant. Stavesacre seeds and tobacco made into a decoction are effectual.

Precaution.—Treat all ragged looking birds offered for sale as suspicious, especially when they are intended for turning down with other birds in the farm-yard or aviary.

(To be continued.)

The Birds of Gambia.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

(*Continued from page* 263).

BRACHYPODIDÆ.

Pycnonotus barbatus. DUSKY BULBUL.

Range. N.W. Africa, West Africa, Senegambia to Nigeria. (*H.L.*)

One of our commonest birds, to be found everywhere in small parties, in the gardens in Bathurst, round every native village and almost all over the surrounding bush. It is a small plainly coloured bird about 7½ inches in length, its general colour being sepia brown, darker on the head, which is slightly crested, wings and tail, and paler below shading into almost white on the abdomen. Iris brown, bill and feet black. Sexes alike. They are cheerful little birds, nearly always on the move, and of a very inquisitive disposition, examining carefully every leaf and twig as they flit about the bushes and every irregularity on the ground which they frequently visit to look for insects or dropped fruit, etc. The nest is a very slight structure, a frail cup of grass-stems, small roots or fibres, generally placed some ten feet from the ground in some thickish small tree, such as an orange or lime. The eggs are greyish, white marbled, and spotted with reddish-brown.

To judge from two I kept in a cage for some months until they eventually escaped, these birds are easily reconciled to captivity and are there anything but difficult to cater for.

These two birds, adult fresh-caught birds, I kept in a box cage, about two feet cube in measurement. Three days after his capture the cock (I think they were a true pair) began to sing, not I must own, a very elaborate strain, but the two or three whistled notes we all know so well out here and which the Bathurst boys translate as "Sixpence a day, sixpence a day." They lived on bananas and oranges and appeared to flourish on this diet; all the time I kept them they remained in perfect plumage, were very lively, and always ready for their bath. At first I repeatedly tried hem with various kinds of insects and also with the native fruits, one sees the wild Bulbuls eating, but at neither of these would my birds even look,—their refusal of the latter one can understand, because I could only offer them what grew on the lower branches of the trees, and this was probably never ripe enough to please their taste. Why they should refuse white ants (of which most birds are so fond) or other insects I could not make out, as they must in nature eat a considerable quantity of insect food, at least one sees them apparently eagerly hunting about for insects. Since my return to England this year I see that in Dresser's *Manual of Palaearctic Birds*, the song of this Bulbul is syllabized as "Phwit, phwit, quitera, quitera," which to me seems as accurate a rendering of their notes as any words can give and certainly much better than that I gave above.

Andropadus latirostris. MOUSTACHED BULBUL.

Range. Senegambia to Congo. (*H.L.*)

Olive greenish above, pale yellowish olive below; moustachial streak yellow, throat dusky olive. Length, 6.35 inches).

Andropadus virens.

Range. Senegambia to Congo. (*H.L.*)

A very similar bird to the above but without the distinct moustache.

Xenocchla syndactyla CHESTNUT-TAILED BULBUL.

Range. Senegambia to Gaboon. (*H.L.*)

X. canicapilla. GREY-HEADED BULBUL.

Range. Senegambia to Gold Coast. (*H.L.*)

These are two rather larger birds than Andropadus, but their colouration is much the same.

Bleda leucopleura. WHITE-BELLIED BULBUL.

Range. Senegambia to Congo. (*H.L.*)

Dull brown shaded with olive above, the rump feathers long and fluffy, the lateral ones being tipped with yellow and forming fairly distinct side patches; chest grey, remainder of under surface a very pale yellow. Length, 9½ inches.

These five Bulbuls I do not actually know and the above particulars are therefore entirely derived from the British Museum Catalogue. I see at different times birds which I am practically sure belong to one or other of these species, but so far have never actually identified any as such, nor indeed am I quite sure that I could tell one from the other even if I saw them all together.

Criniger flavicollis. YELLOW-NECKED BULBUL.

Range. Senegambia to Gold Coast. (*H.L.*)

In December, 1906, I shot a bird at Burreng which I take to be this species. Its general colour was yellowish-olive green above, shaded on head and nape with grey, the feathers here having grey ends and brown centre spots; wing-coverts like the back; quills, external webs dirty yellow, internal dull brown; no distinct lores or eyebrow. Chin and throat bright yellow with a definite margin at the sides (continuing the line of the lower mandible) and below. Breast olive with a distinct grey wash, abdomen olivaceous, grey between the legs; under tail-coverts yellowish buff. Bill black with a small horn-coloured tip; feet greenish-grey, palmar surfaces of toes olive yellow; irides, pale sepia brown. Length, 9 inches.

These birds (if they are this species) are not common here, but are to be met with locally at most seasons in small parties of half a dozen or less in thick bush, showing a marked preference for the denser and darker parts, where they systematically hunt for insects among the thick scrub. They probably also eat a certain amount of wild fruit and berries.

C. barbatus.

C. olivaceus. YELLOW-THROATED BULBUL.

Range of the two species. Senegambia to Gold Coast. (*H.L.*)

C. gracilirostris. FRASER'S BULBUL.

Range. Senegambia to Gaboon. (*H.L.*)

Three Bulbuls more or less like *C. flavicollis*, whose known range includes the Gambia, but which I have never yet to my knowledge seen.

Pyrrhurus scandens.

Range. Senegambia to Gold Coast. (*H.L.*)

A Bulbul with olive-brown upper parts, grey head and brownish yellow under surface, which I believe I occasionally see in the comparatively dense bush in parts of Fogni.

Turdus pelios. AETHIOPIAN THRUSH.

Range. North-East, Equatorial and West Africa. (*H.L.*)

A Thrush about the size of our Song-Thrush, a uniform dull olive brown above, pale buffish brown below shading into almost white on the belly and pale chestnut on the flanks. Bill yellow, sexes alike.

T. cryptopyrrha. SENEGAMBIAN THRUSH.

Range. Senegambia. (*H.L.*)

Very similar to *T. pelios*, but is larger and has pale greyish-brown, not chestnut flanks

Both or one of these species are probably fairly common in the Gambia, though I have never been able to actually identify them, but the following notes made at different times on the Thrushes I have seen almost certainly refer to one or other of them, and on many other occasions I have come across the same birds.

June, 1902: "A Thrush somewhat like our English bird (or rather more like a dusty hen Blackbird) frequents Government House garden, Bathurst, hopping about on the ground, looking for worms on the poor attempt at a lawn there."

Jan., 1904: "At Duniajo a Grey Thrush is common; the same size as ours, but slimmer; appears to be almost wholly a uniform ash-grey. Saw another like this at Lamin Koto, April, 1909."

Feb. 10th, 1909: "A whitish-breasted Thrush coloured above like a pale hen Blackbird and slightly smaller than that bird. A pair seen on the Batelling road."

April, 1909: "Saw another like this once or twice in a Mango-tree at Sabaji, Kombo. It was whistling loudly."

The following notes refer to other Thrush-like birds I have seen, but at the identity of which I cannot even guess, although I should know them if I saw them again and if, later on, I can shoot one, I hope then to be able to ascertain the species."

April 1st, 1907: "At Bondali, Fogni, saw a Thrush with the colour and carriage of a Spotted Flycatcher, but about the size of a Wheatear. A very Robin-like eye and head."

April 24th, 1907: "Bathurst. In one of the gardens I saw a bird which I had never met before. The size of a Robin, grey with olive-green shoulders; Robin-like carriage and eye, with a strong suggestion of a 'Pekin Nightingale' about its general appearance."

May 12th, 1907: "Saw several of the brown birds like large Robins in the scrub round Dunku, Niumi. They suggest both a Robin and a Flycatcher in appearance."

Nov., 1908: "Saw another at Brekama, Kombo."

The Bondali, Dunku and Brekama birds were certainly all of the same species, but the bird seen in the Bathurst garden was quite different. I had never seen it before nor have I since.

Phoenicurus phoenicurus. REDSTART.

Range. Europe, Asia; Equatorial Africa in winter. *(H.L.)*

Occasionally seen in Gambia during the winter.

P. mesoleucus. EHRENBERG'S SUNBIRD.

Range. Caucasus, etc. Senegambia in winter. (*H.L.*)

Differs from *P. phoenicurus* in having a conspicuous white alar patch. while the upper parts are darker and the orange below rather redder.

December 22nd, 1905. McCarthy Island. Saw a Redstart quite different from the ordinary kind. I now think it must have been this species, though it may have been the common Redstart in winter plumage when the blacks and whites are dulled as the feathers have brown edges.

Daulias luscinia. NIGHTINGALE.

Range. Europe, etc., West and S.E. Africa in winter. (*H.L.*

I think I saw one during my tour in the Gambia in 1902, and am sure I saw another at McCarthy in January, 1907.

Cercotrichas podobe. RUFOUS-WINGED THRUSH.

Range. Senegambia and North-east Africa. (*H.L.*)

General colour above and below sooty black; wings darkish brown with a rufous band across them above, wholly rufous below; tail black tipped with white. Female and young like the male, but browner in tint

I do not think I have ever seen this bird and do not think it can be common in Gambia. Mr. A. L. Butler, in the *Ibis* for July, 1905, page 333, describes it as common in the Soudan. He writes: "It is a pleasing and active little bird, looking something like a Blackbird in minature as it hops about on the ground with its tail raised, and is a cheery and persistent singer. In flight the brown on the primaries and the white spots on the expanded tail are conspicuous. It is almost always found in pairs."

Cossypha verticalis. LESSER WHITE-CROWNED CHAT-THRUSH.
Range. West Africa; Senegambia to Abeokuta. (*H.L.*)

C. albicapilla. WHITE-CROWNED CHAT-THRUSH.
Range. Senegambia. (*H.L.*)

These two birds both frequent the thickest, darkest bush along our creeks and rivers, where the black, orange and silver of the bright conspicuous plumage quite lights up the gloom of their haunts, as they flit or hop, in pairs or singly, about the undergrowth.

C. albicapilla is, I think, a good deal commoner than *verticalis*, from which it differs in having no orange nape and its larger size. The only two specimens I have shot agreed well with the catalogue description of *C. albicapilla*, and that of *verticalis* well describes our other smaller bird, as far as one can tell at a distance.

These Thrushes are very lively birds; always on the move, diving in and out the recesses of the bush with sharp flicks of their wings and tails. They are rather inclined to be quarrelsome and to domineer over their neighbours. I one day watched one of them for some time at a water-hole in a thick patch of palm-bush, where it first came down to satisfy its thirst and then spent all its time and energies in driving off all the other birds that came down for their evening drink. Their general colour scheme always bring to one's mind a brightly-coloured Redstart. The following descriptions I take from the "British Museum Catalogue."

"*C. verticalis.* (Cat. VII. p. 45). Adult. Back and scapulars deep slaty-black; round hind neck a collar of orange feathers; lower back, rump and upper tail-coverts also bright orange; crown of head white; forehead, sides of crown and sides of face black; cheeks, sides of neck and entire under surface of body deep orange; wings black, all the feathers margined with slaty-blue, brighter than on the back; two centre tail-feathers black, rest of tail bright orange, outermost feathers being margined externally with black; bill blackish; feet dark brown (skin); 'iris brown' (Shelley). Length 7.5 inches. The young are mottled all over the upper surface with orange feathers, each narrowly margined with black; all the wing-coverts have terminal orange spots . . . . white crown assumed later . . . . all tail feathers apparently tipped with black. . . . . Adult plumage is gained by a direct moult."

"*C. albicapilla.* (VII. p. 89). Adult. Above slaty brown; lower back, rump and upper tail coverts bright orange; entire crown and nape white, all feathers narrowly margined with dull brown; lores, cheeks, ear-coverts and sides of neck dull brown like the back; remainder of under surface of the body bright orange, including the under wing- and tail-coverts; wings dull brown; the two centre tail feathers dull brown, the rest bright orange' the external feathers margined with brown on outer web. Length 10 inches."

Pentholaea albifrons. WHITE-FRONTED BLACK CHAT.

Range. West and N.E. Africa. (*H.L.*)

P. atrata. SENEGAMBIAN BLACK CHAT.

Range. Senegambia (*H.L.*)

Both of these Black Chats are not uncommon in Gambia. They are black birds about the size and shape of a Whinchat, which only differ from each other in the distribution of the small amount of white on the heads, *albifrons* having a white forehead, *atrata* a white occiput. I have, I think, seen them at nearly all seasons, but they are distinctly more numerous during the winter months. Their habits are exactly those of the Whinchat, and they are generally found in the sort of places these birds affect.

Pratincola rubicola. WHINCHAT.

Range. Europe. Africa in winter. (*H.L.*)

Whinchats are common in Gambia from about November to March. They are found in pairs, or singly, in the old corn fields and other open spaces; as active, restless little birds here as they are at home, flitting from bush to bush or perching on the tall stalks which remain standing here and there about the fields.

P. rubetra. STONECHAT.

Range. Europe. Africa in winter. (*H.L.*)

I have not yet met this bird in the Gambia.

Saxicola leucorrhoa. A larger and buffer form of *S. oenanthe.*

Range. Greenland and Eastern North America. Western Europe on migration. West Africa in winter. (*H.L.*)

S. albicollis. BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR.

Range. Western Mediterranean. Senegambia in winter. (*H.L.*

A duskier bird than the common Wheatear (*S. oenanthe*), and with a narrow black forehead and black ear-coverts.

S. rufa. RUSSET WHEATEAR.

Range. South Europe and North Africa. West Africa in winter. (*H.L.*)

A ruddier bird than *S. oenanthe* with an entirely white crown.

Wheatears are very common in the Gambia during the winter months, and when seen are obviously only wanderers, here to-day and gone to-morrow. One day one may find quite a number about the dry fields, the next not a single one is visible, though a day or two later one may again see them. I used to think that our birds were the Common Wheatears, but now, as I see the Hand List gives their winter range as India and *East* Africa; the Gambian Wheatear must belong to one of the three species given above, the ranges of which do include West Africa.

SYLVIIDÆ.

Warblers are found in Gambia in great variety and numbers, especially in winter, when we are visited by many emigrants from Europe such as the Whitethroats, etc., but so many of them resemble one another so closely, and are so retiring in their habits, that I can hardly say I know them. I therefore content myself with a list of those whose range, as given in the Hand List should include the Gambia, and by copying out the the few notes I have jotted down from time to time on the Warblers I have seen.

Kwinella. 1902. Various Warblers, some Chiffchaff-like, others with fluffy plumage and long tails.

January, 1904. Several kinds of Warblers numerous in the long grass, North Bank.

June 8; 1904. Warblers in large numbers and of many kinds on the high wooded banks of the Upper River at Fatotenda.

December 22, 1904. Shot one of the common "Yellow Warblers," a small bird about the size of a Willow Wren, olive above and yellow below. What species?

November 1, 1905. A good many Warblers of sorts in the bush on the Cape road. Recognised, I think, Chiffchaffs and Willow Warblers.

June 18, 1906. Lamin, North Bank. Shot a small Long-tailed and Short-winged Warbler; I think *Eremomela* or *Prinia*. Length $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches. Brown above; abdomen white; shaded on flanks and towards throat with fawn; tail of ten feathers; an indistinct whitish eyebrow; iris light burnt sienna; bill purplish horn; lower mandible paler; legs yellow ochre tarsus comparatively long, scutellated in front, sheathed behind. It was moulting and in rather rough plumage.

May, 1009. Similar birds are very common at Cape St. Mary.

Aedon galactodes. RUFOUS WARBLER.

Range. Western Meditterranean countries; winters in Africa.

Acrocephalus palustris. MARSH WARBLER.

Range. West, Central and South Europe; Persia, Palestine and Africa in winter. (*H.L.*

On the Sifor River, May, 1909. I saw several large (Nightingale size) Warblers in the waterside reeds; they were fantailed, rufous in colour and had a sweet song. I thought they were either this bird or *Aedon.*

A. streperus. REED WARBLER.

Range. West, Central and South Europe to Turkestan; Africa in winter. (*H.L.*)

Cisticola erythrops.

Range. West Africa (Senegambia to Congo): Equatorial Africa; Abyssinia. *(H.L.)*

C. lugubris. BUFF-FRONTED GRASS-WARBLER.

Range. West (Senegambia to Congo), North, East and South Africa. *(H.L.)*

The *Cisticolae* are among the most characteristic of our resident Warblers, and are true Grass-Warblers in every way, as they are hardly ever seen away from long grass. They and the closely allied neighbouring genera are small brown birds, many of them tiny fantailed mites. In May, 1909, I have a note that I think I can identify our two common Grass-Warblers: "the two Grass-Warblers common at Bakau, and elsewhere, are *C. erythrops*, a brown-buff bird with a distinct reddish brown tinge on the forehead and face; and another which, provisionally at any rate, I take to be *C. lugubris*, it is a lighter coloured bird, buff-brown above and pale buff below."

Hypolais polyglotta. MELODIOUS TREE-WARBLDR.

Range. South and south-west Europe; West Africa in winter. *(H.L.)*

H. opaca. WESTERN OLIVACEOUS TREE-WARBLER.

Range. Western Mediterranean countries; West Africa in winter. *(H.L.)*

Sylvia cinerea. WHITETHROAT.

Range. Europe and Asia; Africa in winter. (*H.L.*)

One of the few European visitors which I frequently recognise in the Gambia. I have seen it at many different places up the river.

S. simplex. GARDEN WARBLER.

Range. Europe to the Yenesei; Africa in winter. (*H.L.*)

S. orpheus. ORPHEAN WARBLER.

Range. Central and South Europe, North Africa; Senegambia and North-east Africa in winter. (*H.L.*)

S. atricapilla. BLACKCAP.

Range. Europe to Western Persia; the Azores, South Europe, Senegambia and Equatorial Africa in winter. (*H.L.*)

S. subalpina. SUB-ALPINE WARBLER.

Range. Mediterranean to Persia: Senegambia in winter. *(H.L.)*

Phylloscopus sibilator. WOOD-WARBLER.

Range. Temperate Europe; North-east and West Africa (Gold Coast) in winter. (*H.L.*)

P. bonellii. BONELLI'S WARBLER.

Range. Mediterranean countries; North Africa and Senegambia in winter. (*H.L.*)

P. trochilus. WILLOW-WARBLER.

Range. Europe and Asia; Africa in winter. (*H.L.*)

March 10, 1097. A great many Willow-Warblers (or birds very like them) in trees along the Cape road, Bathurst. Many of the trees simply alive with them. Next day all were gone.

P. minor. CHIFFCHAFF.

Range. Europe to Persia; North-west to North-east Africa in winter. (*H.L.*)

Eremomela lutescens.

E. viridiflava.

Range. Senegambia. (*H.L.*)

E. pusilla.

Range. Senegambia to Gold Coast. (*H.L.*

Camaroptera tincta.

Range. Senegambia to Loango. *(H.L.)*

Prinia mystacea.

Range, Tropical Africa. (*H.L.*)

(To be continued).

BRITISH BIRDS.

The Wryneck.

(*Iynx torquilla*).

By F. Howe.

In my opinion this is undoubtedly one of the most interesting of our indigenous species, and well repays one for the trouble of looking after it; not that it has any song to give, but its peculiar deportment and characteristics are quite different to those of any other bird we get in this country.

The colouration and markings too, are very peculiar, yet very delicate and beautiful: consisting of a curious mottling of browns, black and grey, chastely beautiful in their arrangement and distribution, but very difficult to describe in detail. Briefly the description is as follows:—Upper plumage reddish-grey; under parts light fawn; a broad blackish-brown runs from the back of the head to the middle of the back; wing prettily mottled with dark-brown; throat and upper breast variegated with dark transverse lines; under parts lighter with darker arrow-shaped markings; tail mottled and heavily barred with blackish-brown. The bill, tongue, and feet are similar to those possessed by Woodpeckers, but Wrynecks do not possess the stiff and pointed tail feathers of Woodpeckers, which are climbers.

The bill of the Wryneck is neither so strong, nor so stoutly built as that of the Woodpecker, moreover the former scarcely ever use their bill for hammering, while this is a well known characteristic of the Woodpecker; nevertheless, I have occasionally seen a captive Wryneck hammer rather hard and quickly on the perches and sides of cage or aviary.

The tongue is exceedingly long, and is thrust out and withdrawn with lightning-like rapidity when feeding, but it does not possess the arrangement of backward directed spines, which are a noticeable feature of the tongues of Woodpeckers; instead it has a sharp horny substance just at the end, about a quarter of an inch in length, directly followed by soft transparent gristle, in the centre of which is a thin line of some harder substance. Being so constructed it is very flexible, and is covered with a sort of glutinous saliva, to which its food adheres; it will readily be seen with what an effective weapon nature has endowed this interesting species for the collection or capture of its prey.

The feet and claws are not very strong, and cannot very well be used for climbing up the trunks of trees, consequently, when the bird is in search of food, it resorts mostly to the upper parts of branches, or on the ground foraging for ants, which constitute the greater part of its diet. Its foot is zygodactylous, *i.e.* pair toed, as in Parrots, Cuckoos, &c.: this feature being common to most of the genera of the orders CUCULIFORMES and CORACIFORMES.

In captivity, it becomes sufficiently tame and confiding for its interesting characteristics and demeanour, to be easily watched. Its movements and attitudes at different times are really extraordinary, fully justifying the name of "Snake-bird," which cognomen is one of its popular names,—others are Cuckoo's-mate and Cuckoo's leader, as the time of its arrival in this country is about concurrent with that of the "Harbinger of Spring." If it is closely observed, or steadily stared at, it will very gradually bend forward and, at the same time, lengthen its neck, erect its crest (or long head feathers), press down the feathers of its neck, swell out the throat, and finish up the performance with a noise resembling something between a hiss and a sneeze; it often repeats this several times over if steadily stared at and the watcher keeps quite still, but the slightest movement will interrupt the performance. The movements are both singular and comical.

It should be kept in a large cage or aviary, to allow of plenty of exercise, and, whenever procurable, it should have a portion of an anthill (soil, ants, larvæ and pupæ) put into its cage; this will be a great treat for the bird and provide it with healthy, natural exercise; it will also be a sight not readily forgotten by its owner.

I have noticed its call described as "*tay-tay-tay-tay.*" I have listened to it numbers of times, both in captivity and at liberty, and always made it out to be "*keki-keki keki-keki.*" repeated quickly a number of times in succession. [Howard Saunders in his manual gives his call as *qui, qui, qui* or *pay, pay, pay.*—Ed.] It is rarely seen in its wild haunts, as its habits are skulking and unobtrusive, its flight short and undulating; also the fact of its inconspicuous colouration accounts for its being so little seen, as in many instances movement alone would betray it.

To anyone requiring an interesting and uncommon cage pet I can confidently recommend the Wryneck.

Correspondence.

HERMAPHRODITE BULBUL.

Sir,—I sent one of my Red-eared Bulbuls to be set up, and received the following letter from the Taxidermist:—"Regarding the sex of the Indian Bulbul you sent to me for "preservation, it may interest you to know that the bird was "sexless, that is it had that peculiar condition of the sexual "organs known as 'Hermaphroditism.' No similar instance of "such malformation in a perching bird has ever come under my "notice; amongst game birds, however, such an abnormal con-"dition is not very rare." On my seeing Mr. Hine he said one half of the bird was male, the other half female. The female part contained eggs. Never having heard of such a case before, I thought it might be of interest to you. This bird had been in my outdoor aviary for about six months, and till a week before it died appeared to be perfectly healthy. This bird being slightly duller in colour than its mate I had taken it to be the female.

H. V. JOHNSON.

FALCONS AND HERONS.

SIR,—With reference to Mr. W. E. Teschemaker's note on page 203, No. 7, Vol. VIII. of *Bird Notes*, it may be of interest to Mr. Teschemaker and other members to hear that in India, at all events, Peregrine Falcons are very frequently trained to Heron, and usually take kindly to the sport. I mention this fact, as from the article in question it would appear that it is quite an exceptional Peregrine that would take such a formidable quarry, whereas my experience has been that most Peregrines, if carefully trained, will take to Heron as easily as they will to the "houbara" Bustard.

A Kestrel attacking a Heron is, of course, unique; though once in South Africa I saw one stooping at a hare, and it seemed most persistent in its attack, though I unfortunately was not able to see the end of the chase. The Falcon came within a few yards of me, and I could not have been mistaken as to its identity, though I admit that it struck me at the time that it was a very fine specimen in point of size.

I am not acquainted with the Falconidæ of S. Africa, so it is just possible it may have not been a Kestrel, but if not the markings were almost identical, even to the slaty blue tail, with the black trimmed band and the flight with the quick short flap of the wing, too, was that of *Tinnunculus*.

Kulu, India, 7/11/09. C. H. DONALD, F.Z.S.

Bird Notes from Far and Near.

NATURE NOTES.

THE BIRDS OF TWO COUNTRIES.

SOME QUAINT AUSTRALIANS.

By James Drummond, F.L.S., F.Z.S.

(*Continued from page* 238).

The LAUGHING JACKASS, or "kookaburra," is a bird whose fame as a humourist has travelled far, and yet a person must hear two of them laughing to really appreciate this eccentricity of bird-life. There are two kinds of Laughing Jackasses, the grey and the blue, and the laugh of each is quite distinct, though given in a somewhat similar way. One bird gives a "hoo-hoo-hoo," while the other chatters and cackles. The sound rises in tone until it is very loud and then it quite suddenly dies away. Another bird whose cry is a combined effort is the STOCK-WHIP BIRD. One of the pair (Mr. Lawson does not know which) emits a whistle, sharp and shrill, which rises in crescendo, and is then cut short off with a "whit," very like the sound of a wet stock-whip lash. Then the hitherto silent mate gives two quick notes, just as though it said, in startled tones, "What, oh!"

Closely related to the STOCK-WHIP BIRD are the SOLDIER BIRD, all uniformed like a red-coat, and the LEATHER-HEAD. The latter has no feathers on its head. These two chatter all day long in the scrub. There are CURLEWS in Queensland, too. "Ghost birds" they were believed to be when Mr. Lawson and his schoolboy friends passed up or down the river at night and heard them calling near the moonlit swamps. Their call is a moaning whistle, like wind crying through a half-opened casement. Sometimes they were disturbed by persons walking on the river bank, and they fled silently, without any sound at all, just like shadows.

One of the most remarkable Australian birds is the NATIVE COMPANION, sometimes called the GIGANTIC CRANE and the GREAT GREY CRANE. It dwells on the plains and is much addicted to playing and dancing. Its favourite game resembles a set of lancers. Pairs march out, bow, and retire. The last act in the performance is the forming of a grand chain, the birds running in a circle, with wings poised and fluttering over low-curved necks. Near the coastal rivers and in the bays are found the **PELICANS**, which belong to the same order as the Storks, Herons and Bitterns. The Pelican's peculiarity lies in a pouch depending from the lower mandible of the head, and used to carry a store of the fish which the bird catches. The birds move in flocks, sometimes of fifty or more. Usually twenty or thirty are found together. The enormous beaks make them unsightly and ungainly. Like the Pigeon, the Pelican hides its nest well and few have been found. At sunset, when the red beams of light make the water crimson and the sandbanks gleam like gold, the solemn, pouch-jawed Pelicans gather on the sandbanks and watch the sun go down, and their dull-grey bodies look quite bright. At other times they are ugly birds.

Something between the Native Companion and the Pelican is the "Jaheroo." This names is an Australian version of the Brazilian word "jahiru." Long-legged and long-billed, with the bill heavy and thick and slightly curved at the tip, this bird frequents the northern rivers. It is exceedingly shy, but can be tamed. Its colour is greyish-white with black legs, bill and skin. The bird also occurs in tropical America and doubtless in other parts.—From the *New Zealand Herald*. *per* F. HOWE.

The Month's Arrivals.

AN AMERICAN CONSIGNMENT. I recently received, through the courtesy of Mr. W. Cross, a box of North American birds for inspection direct from the steamer. Since the passing of the last Protection Act, practically no birds from the States have appeared in the market, except a few Virgianian Cardinals which, as one importer puts it, have been "slyed across." This of course is very annoying to us aviculturists and moreover it is unnecessary because the causes of the diminution of American birds are, firstly, the Yankee custom of shooting everything that flies for the pot and, secondly, the introduction of the English Sparrow. There were nine birds in this consignment, representing five different species. These were:

TWO SNOW BUNTINGS (*E. nivalis*). The Snow Bunting ranges across the whole of the Arctic regions and therefore these birds were of the same species as our own, nevertheless I was much interested in noting that they showed much more white in the plumage than ours and were more heavily striated on the rump.

Four MELODIOUS SPARROWS (*Melospiza fasciata*). This is a common species in its own country ranging throughout the whole of temperate N. America from Mexico northwards and, in the days before the passing of the Act above alluded to, a few pairs used to be imported now and again, especially by the Continental dealers. It is rather larger than our English Accentor; brown on the back; the breast feathers white, richly marked with triangular spots of very dark chestnut centred with the black running in chains, and may perhaps be best distinguished among many similarly coloured N. American species by the three conspicuous dark chestnut streaks which sweep backward from the eye, from the base of the upper and the base of the lower mandible; also by the dark centres of the two centre tail feathers. As usually happens in the case of a species so widely distributed as this there are a number of variant forms. These four individuals had vinous spots on the breast and the under tail-coverts were nearly white instead of ochre. Alexander Wilson says of this species: "It is the first singing bird of spring: its song continues occasionally during the whole summer and fall and is sometimes heard during the depth of winter. The notes are short but very sweet. It is fond of frequenting the borders of rivers, meadows, swamps and such like watery places, and if wounded and unable to fly, will readily take to the water and swim with considerable rapidity. It builds on the ground under a tuft of grass; the nest is formed of fine dry grass and lined with horsehair. I have found his nest with young as early as the 26th of April and as late as the 12th of August."

One SNOW BIRD (*Junco hiemalis*). This interesting and attractive species is about the size of our Linnet, lavender-grey above and white on the breast and abdomen. The severity of the N. American winters renders it necessary for practically the whole of their breeding species to be migratory, and the Snow-bird is no exception, for its migration extends from the Arctic circle to Mexico. On the other hand the extreme heat of their summers renders it possible for a Tanager (*Pyranga ludoviciana*) to penetrate to the Rocky Mountains and for some species of Humming-birds to breed in Canada. Of this species Wilson says: "From the northern parts of Maine to the Ogeechee river in Georgia, a distance, by the circuitous route in which I travelled, of more than 1,800 miles, I never passed a day and scarcely a mile without seeing numbers of these birds and frequently large flocks of several thousands." This, however, was almost exactly a century ago; if the great Scotch naturalist could make this journey again to-day what changes he would see not only in the face of the country but in the conditions of bird-life! At the approach of spring the Snow-bird returns once more, with the Snow-bunting, to the frozen north where it breeds. It used to be imported into Germany and has even been bred by Dr. Russ.

The remaining two birds were an unknown Bunting and a small species somewhat resembling the Savannah Sparrow.

I am indebted to Mr. F. C. Thorpe for an opportunity of describing the following three species:

(i) A ROCK SPARROW, resembling (*P. dentata*) in size and style but with rufous-brown crown, back and tail, and pronounced light-grey eyebrow streak—not at present identified.

(ii) A TROPICAL SEED-FINCH (*Oryzoborus torridus*). This rare and beautiful Grosbeak will, I hope, be picked up by one of our exhibiting members. The whole of the upper parts and the throat are a brilliant black, the whole of the lower parts a deep, rich chestnut, and there is a zone of pure white across the base of the primaries which shows up well when he flies. The remarkably large black beak adds to the quaint style of the bird. Dr. Butler says of this species "outer webs of primaries white at base: irides greyish brown." I have made marginal notes on my copy of his excellent work to the effect that the *inner and* outer margins of the of the primaries of this particular specimen were white and that the irides were *brown*. Habitat: S. America.

(iii) THE ARGOONDAH QUAIL (*Perdicula argoondah*). A pair of this charming little species were sent me as long ago as the beginning of last September, but I have not referred to them before because I have never until recently been quite satisfied as to their identity. They were identified by a leading official of the South Kensington Museum from my description as *P. asiatica*, but probably my description was not detailed enough. It was some time before I had an opportunity of seeing a skin and then I had not the living specimen at hand to compare with it. They appeared to me (and also to Mr. Thorpe) somewhat different from the Jungle Bush Quail which has been frequently imported, and as recently as 1908 by our member Captain Perreau. However, in the course of a recent visit to the Metropolis I became the possessor of a second-hand copy of Ogilvie Grant's "Hand-book to the Game-birds." This I can strongly recommend: it is a kind of abstract of his larger work on the same subject, replete with useful information and very moderate in price. The description of *P. argoondah* caused me to catch up my pair and examine them again. They may be briefly described as follows:—Size: larger than a Chinese or Rain Quail. Male: above brown, barred with buff and black; pale rufous on throat; below white with close and regular black cross-bars. Female: above brown with the most delicate shadings and pencillings as seen on the Wryneck, with a few reddish feathers; throat dull white; below dull vinacious buff. The female *P. asiatica* has a rufous throat so I had no difficulty in referring my female to *P. argoondah*. According to Ogilvie Grant, the male *P. asiatica* has only the outer margins of the flight feathers barred with buff, whereas the male *P. argoondah* has both inner and outer margins barred. Now my male has only about two-thirds of the secondaries and one-third of the primaries so marked, but as I noted that two of the primaries which were just coming down were wholly barred, I came to the conclusion that he was an immature *P. argoondah* just coming into adult plumage, especially as he had the light brick-red throat of the latter species. These two Indian Bush Quails are very closely related, but inhabit very different localities, the Jungle Bush Quail being found in thick jungle and broken ravines, while the Rock Bush Quail favours open stony plains; where the one is found you may look in vain for the other. They both lie very close and then get up with a startling whirr of wings and vanish with remarkable rapidity in all directions, though seldom flying to any great distance. Being poor table birds they are chiefly valued by the natives for their fighting qualities. which have to be seen to be realised. I have kept mine in a small heated aviary and I think this quite the best method, because in an outdoor aviary with any cover all Quails are invisible. and in a cage they simply mope. In this diminutive aviary, with a floor-space of only eight feet by twelve, they are ceaselessly active, playing hide and seek amongst the bamboo-clumps, burrowing with prodigious energy into the loose earth and preening each others feathers like a pair of Mannikins. *P. argoondah* is quite as common a bird in its own country as *P. asiatica*, but it does not seem to have been so frequently imported.

W. E. T.

Post Mortem Reports.

(*Vide Rules*).

For replies by post, a fee of 2/6 *must be sent;* this regulation will not be broken under any condition.

Cock WHITE JAVA SPARROW. (Miss Brickwood). Cause of death, pneumonia.

Young BUDGERIGAR. (Miss E. Brooksbanks). Cause of death, enteritis.

Hen BEARDED TIT. (W. E. Teschemaker). Cause of death, inflammation of bowels.

Cock MADAGASCAR WEAVER. (H. V. Johnson). Cause of death, pneumonia.

Answered by post:

E. J. Brook.
Lady Pennant.
Miss Bousfield.
O. Millsum.
B. Hollins.

H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

Just on going to press we learn that our esteemed member, Mrs. K. Leslie Miller, has become the fortunate possessor of a Tickell's Flycatcher; a description of which will appear in our next issue.

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MARCH, 1909.

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ARONSTEIN, MARKS, 30, Grand Parade, Cork. (March, 1906).

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BOUSFIELD, Miss M., The Rest, Richmond Park Road, Bournemouth. (Jan., 1908).

BOYD, HAROLD, Barton House, Didsbury, Manchester. (April, 1903).

BRANNEKER, BARON DE, 8, Passage Bonado, à Pau, Basses Pyrenees, France. (Feb., 1908).

BRIDGEWATER, F. M., Terrier's House, High Wycombe, Bucks. (March, 1907).

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CAMPS, H. T. T., F.Z.S., Linden House, Haddenham, Isle of Ely. (Orig. Mem).

CAPERN, F., Avenue House, Cotham Park, Bristol. (Oct., 1907).

CASTLE-SLOANE, C., F.Z.S., Oat Hall, near Crawley, Sussex. (Nov., 1902).

CHAPLIN, E. W., The Firs, Great Anwell, Herts. (Sept., 1903).

CHEETHAM, J., The Hawthorns, Brighouse, Yorks. (Oct., 1908).

CLIFTON, Lord, Cobham Hall, Gravesend. (Oct., 1905).

CONWAY-GORDON, Miss V., Longley House, Rochester. (Oct., 1906).

COPE-PROCTOR, Miss M. E., 19, St. George's Square, Stamford, Lincs. Feb., 1909).

COWPER-COOPER, Mrs. 36, South Parade, Southsea. (Nov., 1907).

CREASY, B. H., 48, Albert Road, Longsight, Manchester (April, 1908).

CRISP, R. L., 58, Elm Park Road, Chelsea, London, S.W. (Feb., 1909).

CRONKSHAW, J., Peel Mount, Burnley Road, Accrington. (Nov., 1901).

CROYSDALE, Mrs. B., Hawke House, Sunbury-on-Thames. (Jan., 1908).

CULLEN, J. W., St. Nicholas Works, St. Nicholas Square, Leicester. (Nov., 1908).

CUSHNY, CHARLES, c/o Messrs. Neish, Howell and Haldane, 47, Watling Street, Queen Victoria Street, E.C. (Orig. Mem).

DARRELL, Dr. H. W., Adelaide House, All Saint's Green, Norwich. (Sept., 1908).

DENNIS, Mrs. HAROLD, St. Leonard's Park, Horsham, Sussex. (Jan., 1904).

DELACOUR, J., F.Z.S., 76, Eaton Place, London, S.W. (Feb., 1909).

DENTON, W., Eastfield, Claremont, Halifax. (March, 1909).

DEWAR, D., c/o Messrs. Grindley & Co., 54, Parliament Street, London, S.W. (June, 1907).

DEWAR, J. F., 2, St. Patrick's Square, Edinburgh. (Orig. Mem.)

DE YARDBURGH-BATESON, The Hon. LILLA, Heslington, York. (June, 1903).

DOBBIE, J., Waverley Works, Leith, N.B. (April, 1906).

DOBSON, Mrs. K. E., The Quarries, Chapel Allerton, Leeds. (June, 1908).

DONALD, C. H., c/o The Alliance Bank of Simla, Ltd., Simla, Punjab, India. (Sept., 1908).

DRUMMOND, Miss, Mains of Megginch, Errol, N.B. (Nov., 1907).

DUNLEATH, The Lady, Ballywater Park, Ballywater, co. Down. (Nov., 1901).

DUNN, Lady ELLEN, Fair View, Riverside, Taplow. (Nov., 1907).

DUTTON, The Hon. and Rev. Canon, Bibury, Fairford. (May, 1906).

EBRILL, WM., 14, Victoria Terrace, Limerick. (April, 1906).

EDMUNDS, J. T., 66, Cowley Road, Swindon. (May, 1908).

ELLIS, JAS. V., 23, Baronsmead Road, Barnes, London, S.W. (July, 1908).

FASEY, WILLIAM R., The Oaks, Holly Bush Hill, Snaresbrooke. (Jan., 1903).

FINN, FRANK, B.A., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., 29, Chalcot Crescent, Primrose Hill, N.W. (Sept., 1903).

FISHER, W. H., The Bush Hotel, Farnham, Surrey. (May, 1908).

FLANNERY, M. J., Barrack Street, Nenagh, co. Tipperary, Ireland. (Jan., 1909).

FOSTER, Miss E. M., 35, High Street, Huntingdon. (Jan., 1909).

FOSTER, WILLIAM HILL, 164, Portland Street, Southport. (Nov., 1901).

GALLOWAY, Mrs. E., 50, Clarendon Road, Bedford. (Jan., 1908).

GALLOWAY, Miss N., 50, Clarendon Road, Bedford. (Sept., 1908).

GALLOWAY, P. F. M., Durban, St. Peter's Avenue, Caversham, Reading. (Nov., 1907).

GERRARD, JOHN, M.B.O.U., Worsley, Manchester. (June, 1905).

GIBBONS, Miss M., Boddington Manor, Cheltenham. (Dec., 1904).

GOODCHILD, H., M.B.O.U., 66, Gloucester Road, Regent's Park, N.W. (July, 1903).

GOODFELLOW, W., Montrose, New Park Road, West Southbourne. (Oct., 1908).

Gorringe, The Rev. Reginald. E. P., Maxey Vicarage, Market Deeping. Northants. (Dec., 1902).

Gourlay, H., Kempshott Park, Basingstoke. (Nov., 1907).

Gray, H., M.R.C.V.S., (*Hon. Veterinary Surgeon*), 23, Upper Phillimore Place. W. (May, 1906).

Hadley, T. E., 29, 30 & 31, Princess Street, Burton-on-Trent. (Mar., 1908).

Harper, E. W., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., 55, Waterloo Road, Bedford. (Oct., 1907).

Harrison, J. H., Ellerslie, East Beach, Lytham, Lancs. (Dec., 1901).

Hartley, Mrs. E. A., St. Helen's Lodge, Hastings. (Sept., 1907).

Harvey, Lady, Langley Park, Slough. (June, 1908).

Hatcher, J. F., 168, Upper Thames Street, E.C. (June, 1903).

Hawkins, L. W., Estrilda, New Clive Road, West Dulwich. (Orig. Mem.)

Healey, Mrs., 12, Rossetti Gardens Mansions, Cheyne Walk, S.W. (Feb., 1903).

Henderson, Mrs. W. F., Moorfield, Upper Claremont, Newcastle-on-Tyne. (Nov., 1908).

Henstock, J. H., Market Place, Ashbourne, Derby. (March, 1907).

Hetley, Dr. Henry, Beaufort House, 114, Church Road, Norwood, S.E. (Jan., 1908).

Hodgkin, Mrs. B. W., 6, Priory Terrace, Kew, London. (Feb., 1908).

Hollins, Miss, Greyfriars, Preston, Lancashire. (Feb. 1906).

Hollins, B., 9, George Street, Hull. (May, 1903).

Hopkinson, Emilus, D.S.O., M.A., M.B., Oxon., Bathurst, Gambia, West Africa. (Oct., 1901).

Horton, L. W., Hill House, Compton, Wolverhampton. (Sept., 1902).

Hosford, S. R., Highfield Avenue, College Road, Cork. (Nov., 1906).

Houlton, Charles, Laburnum House, Denton's Green, St. Helen's, Lancs. (Nov., 1901).

Howe, Frank, 65, Thomas Street, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire. (Feb., 1902).

Howe, Mrs. James, Moss Lodge, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancs. (July, 1903).

Hoyte, P. S., Plymouth & Stonehouse Gas Light and Coke Co., Engineer's Office, Coxside, Plymouth. (May, 1908).

Hubbard, Mrs. D. L., Casa Sta. Monica, Bordighera, Italy. (Jan., 1905).

Hume, James, Hepscott, Morpeth. (June, 1903).

Humphrys, Russell, Southborough, Bickley. (July, 1902).

Huxley, A. J., 57, Bradford Street, Walsall. (May, 1908).

Jamrach, A. E., 180, St. George's Street, London, E.

Jardine, Miss E. L., 15, Baskerville Road, Wandsworth Common, London, S.W. (Dec., 1902).

Jeffs, W., Pensarn Villas, Victoria Road, Darlaston. (Oct., 1904).

Johnson, H. V., 18, Chambres Road, Southport. (Nov., 1908).

Kennedy, Lt. G., 2/4 Gurkha Rifles, Bakloh, Punjab, India. (May, 1908).

Lamb, E. J., Alverstone, Thetford Road, New Maldon, Surrey. (May, 1906).

LANE, Miss, The Deanery, Rochester. (April, 1905).
LEWIS, J., Corstorphine, Ryde, Isle of Wight. (June, 1908).
LITTLE, Miss C. ROSA, Baronshalt, The Barons, East Twickenham. (Nov., 1902).
LONGDON, Mrs. C. A., Arreton, Epsom Road, Guildford. (Feb., 1909.
LYTHGOE, G. W. F., 25, Stanford Street, Old Trafford, Manchester. (Nov., 1906).

MACARTHUR, J., 19, Wharton Road, Peckham Rye, London, S.E. (Sept., 1907).
McDONAGH, J. E. R., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., F.Z.S., F.L.S., Kettlewell, Swanley, Kent. (Jan., 1903).
McLAREN, The Hon. Mrs. MORRISON, Kepwick Park, Northallerton, Yorks. (Nov., 1906).
McLEOD, Miss M. F., Beechcroft, Teignmouth, S. Devon. (Oct., 1908).
McWILLIAM, Miss, 5, Den Crescent, Teignmouth, S. Devon. (Nov., 1907.)
MARMONT, W. B., The Firs, Amberley, near Stroud. (Oct., 1908).
MASTER, G., M.B., B.C., 86, Guildhall Street, Bury St. Edmunds. (Nov., 1903).
MEADOWS, J. C. W., 17, Cardiff Road, Luton, Beds.
MATHIAS, H. W., Lucerne, Stubbington, Fareham, Hants. (Oct., 1908).
MAXWELL, C. T., Southlawn, Acre Lane, Brixton, London, S.W. (Dec., 1908.
MELLOR, Mrs., Fair Lawn, Lytham, Lancs. (July, 1904).
MILLER, Mrs. K. LESLIE, 27, Belgrave Road, S.W. (Jan., 1904).
MILLER, TINNISWOOD, F.Z.S., (*Hon. Treasurer*), 27, Belgrave Road, London, S.W. (Sept., 1907).
MILLSUM, O., Regent Street, Swindon, Wilts. (July, 1907).
MITCHELL, H., Holmfield, Lyndhurst, Hants. (Sept., 1903).
MONTAGUE, G. R., 63, Crosted Road, West Dulwich. (Feb., 1909).
MORGAN, Miss H. L., 108, Craiglea Drive, Edinburgh, N.B. (March, 1907).
MORTIMER, Mrs., Wigmore, Holmwood, Surrey. (Orig. Mem.)
MORTIMER, Miss, Wigmore, Holmwood, Surrey. (Nov., 1908).
MURRAY, A. L. KEITH, 1, Chudleigh Villas, Bideford, N. Devon. (April, 1908).
MURRAY, IVAN D., Toddington Park, Dunstable, Beds. (June, 1906).

NEWBOULD, T., Avoca, Linthorpe, Middlesborough. (Dec., 1902).
NEWMAN, T. H., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Newlands, Harrowdene Road, Wembley, Middlesex. (July, 1903).

OAKEY, W., 34, High Street, Leicester. (Orig. Mem.)
OBERHOLSER, HARRY C., 1445, Girard Street, Washington, D.C., U.S.A., (Dec., 1903).
O'REILLY, NICHOLAS S., 81, Marine Parade, Brighton. (Orig. Mem).

PAGE, W. T., F.Z.S., (*Hon. Editor & Secretary*), 6, Rylett Crescent, Shepherd's Bush, W. (May, 1905).
PARTRIDGE, Mrs., Loxia, Richmond Road, Worthing. (Dec., 1905).

PATERSON, Rev. J. MAPLETOFT, St. John's Vicarage, Hollington, St. Leonard's-on-Sea. (Nov., 1908).

PAYNE, H., The Little Zoo, Lyncombe Hill, Bath. (May, 1907).

PENNANT, Lady EDITH DOUGLAS, Soham House, Newmarket. (July, 1908).

PERKINS, E., Chester Hill, Woodchester, Gloucestershire. (Feb., 1903).

PERREAU, Capt. G. F., F.Z.S., 2/4 Gurkha Rifles, Bakloh, Punjab, India. (Dec., 1903).

PERREAU, Mrs. R. A. D., 11, Douglas Crescent, Edingburgh, N.B. (Sept., 1908).

PERRING, C. S. R., Melie House, Waldegrave Road, Teddington. (Oct., 1902).

PICKARD, H. K., 10, Sandwell Crescent, W. Hampstead, N.W. (Oct., 1901).

PICKLES, W. H., Stoneyhurst, Morecombe, Lancs. (May, 1904).

PILKINGTON, Lady KATHLEEN, Chevet Park, Wakefield. (Sept., 1908).

POND, Mrs. T. A., 174, Upper Parliament Street, Liverpool. (Nov., 1902).

PORTEOUS, JAMES T., 10, Alexandra Terrace, Hexham. (Sept., 1903).

PYKE, W., 106, Church Street, Preston, Lancs. (Oct., 1907).

QUAIT, Mrs. WORTLEY, St. Brannock's, Mundesley, Norfolk. (April, 1908).

REEVE, Capt. J. S., Leadenham House, Lincoln. (March, 1908).

RESTALL, J. A., 82, Cambridge Street, Birmingham. (Nov., 1903).

RHODES, F. W., M.S.A., Roseleigh, Armley, Leeds. (Oct., 1908).

RICE, Capt. G., Clayquhat, Blairgowrie, N.B. (July, 1902).

RILEY, E., 16, Talbot Road, Old Trafford, Manchester. (March, 1909).

ROBBINS, H., 25, Campden Hill Square, London, W. (Oct., 1908).

ROGERS, W. T., Weald View, Ongar Road, Brentwood, Essex. (Oct., 1907).

ROGERSON, Mrs., Feurville, Cheltenham. (Feb., 1903).

ROTCH, C. D., Sunnycliff, Cholmondley Road, West Kirby, Cheshire. (Orig. Mem.)

ROTH, FRED G. R., 31 West 129th Street, New York, U.S.A. (Nov., 1908).

ROW, C. H., Chapel House, Long Melford, Suffolk. (Dec., 1905).

ST. A. WAIT, Miss LOUISA, 12, Rosary Gardens, London, S.W. (Dec., 1907).

SAVAGE, A., 3, Rue Bihorel, Bihorel, Rouen, France. (Dec., 1905).

SCHERREN, H., F.Z.S., 9, Cavendish Road, Harringay, London, N. (July 1908).

SCOTT, J. EASTON, M.B., Birdhurst, Woodcote Road, Wallington, Surrey. (March, 1998).

SICH, H. L., Bepton Rectory, Midhurst, Sussex. (June, 1908).

SIDEBOTTOM, Mrs. E. HARROP-, Etherow House, Hollingworth, Cheshire. (Feb., 1908).

SILVER, ALLEN, 11, Foulser Road, Upper Tooting, S.W. (Orig. Mem.)

SIMPSON, R. E., 9, Christ Church Avenue, Armley, Leeds. (Dec., 1907).

SLADDEN, J. H., 140, Denmark Road, Lowestoft. (Oct., 1908).

SMITH, W. S., 24, Jubilee Street, Luton, Beds. (Dec., 1908).

SNELL, S. H., M.D., 261, Trinity Road, Wandsworth, S.W. (March, 1904).

Somers, Frank, M.R.C.V.S., 66, Francis Street, Leeds. (Jan., 1907).
Sprankling, E., Brookland Cottage, South Road, Taunton. (Feb., 1908).
Stocker, J. M., The Villas, Stoke-on-Trent. (Nov., 1908).
Storey, James, 107, Boundary Road, St. John's Wood, N.W. (Orig. Mem.)
Sturroch, J. P., M.D., Midlothian and Peebles' Asylum, Rosslynlee, Roslyn Castle, N.B. (Oct., 1908).
Suffolk and Berkshire, Countess of, Charlton Park, Malmesbury. (Feb., 1909).
Suggitt, R., Suggit's Lane, Cleethorpes. (Dec., 1903).
Sutcliffe, Albert, Field House, Grimbsy. (May, 1907).
Swaysland, W., 47, Queen's Road, Brighton. (Orig. Mem.)

Temple, W. R., Ormonde, Datchet, Bucks. (Dec , 1908).
Teschemaker, W. E., B.A., Ringmore, Teignmouth, Devon. (March, 1907).
Thomson, John, Officers' Quarters, Powder Mill Lane, Waltham Abbey, Essex. (Feb., 1908).
Tomassi Baldelli, La Countessa G., 4, Via Silvio Pelico, Florence, Italy. (Dec., 1901).
Townsend, S. M., (*Hon. Exhibitional Secretary*), 3, Swift Street, Fulham, S.W. (Orig. Mem.)
Toye, Mrs. M., Stanhope, Bideford, N. Devon. (Nov., 1901).
Travers, Miss Annette, Kingcraigee, Courtmacsherry, co. Cork. (Dec., 1903).
Trower, T. R., 442, Caledonian Road, London, N. (Feb., 1908).
Turner, Thos., Cullompton, Devon. (May, 1908).

Vere, The Very Rev. Canon, 21A, Soho Square, London, W. (Nov., 1903).
Vernon, Mrs., Toddington Manor, Dunstable, Beds. (Oct., 1905).
Vollmar, Paul, 68, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C. (Feb., 1909).

Waddell, Miss E. G. R. Peddie, 4, Great Stuart Street, Edinburgh. (Feb. 1909).
Walker, A., M.A., B.Sc., M.D., The Chestnuts, Westbourne Road, Sheffield. (Dec., 1907).
Walsh, J., 159, Dukes Row, Blackburn. (Dec., 1908).
Ward, Hon. Mrs. Somerset, Carrowdon Castle, Donaghadee, co. Down. (Oct. 1905).
Wardale, H., Willington House, Willington Quay, Northumberland. (May, 1903).
Watts, Rudolph, Wilmar, Wiggenhall Road, Watford. (Nov., 1906).
Webb, W., 1, North Road, Surbiton. (Jan., 1904).
Westacott, H., Wellington Hotel, Minehead. (Sept., 1907).
Weston, G. E., 45, Clevedon Mansions, London, N.W. (July, 1908).
Whittaker, T. H., The Laund, Accrington, Lancs. (Dec., 1903).
Williams, P. Victor, Hinstock Hall, Market Drayton, Shropshire. (Dec. 1908).
Willford, Henry, Uplands View, Haven Street, Isle of Wight. (July, 1908).

Wilson, Miss F. M., 34. Charrington Street, London, N.W. (March, 1906).

Wilson, T. N., M.A., Oak Lodge, Bitterne, near Southampton. (Jan., 1902).

Winchilsea and Nottingham, The Countess of, Harlech, Merioneth. (June, 1903).

Woodall, R. M., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Hetton-le-Hole, co. Durham. (Feb., 1909).

Woodmass, Mrs., Southwell Gardens, London, S.W. (Feb., 1908).

Wormald, Hugh, Heathfield, East Dereham, Norfolk. (Jan., 1908).

Wright, G. B. c/o G. Heath, Church Hill, Handsworth, Birmingham. (June, 1908).

Wrottesley, The Hon. Walter B., F.Z.S., Seisdon, Apsley End, Hemel Hempstead. (Dec., 1902).

☞ *The Hon. Editorial Secretary requests that he may be promptly advised of any errors or omissions in the above list.*

March, 1909.

Roll of Associates.

ACUTT, J. Goodrest, Manor Road, New Melton, Hants. (July, 1907).

BRICKWOOD, Miss EDITH, 3, Ladies Lodge, Dunstable, Beds. (May, 1907).

GREEVEN, Miss M., 29, Queensborough Terrace, Hyde Park, W. (Oct. 1907).

HALLIDAY, CHARLES, Bridge Street, Banbridge, co. Down. (June, 1903).
HARTON, Miss E., 53, Goldhurst Terrace, South Hampstead. (Nov. 1903).
HAWKE, The Hon. M. C., Wighill Park, Tadcaster. (Nov. 1902).
HENTSCH, W. J., Douglas Villa, Acacia Grove, New Malden, Surrey. (Jan. 1904).
HINCKS, Miss E. M., Baron's Down, Dulverton. (Jan., 1903).
HYDE & Co., Ltd., R., Harold Street, Camberwell, S.E. (May, 1902).
LEE, Miss Constance, Budleigh, Salterton R.S.O. Devon. (Dec., 1904).
LOCK, Miss M., 84A, Salisbury Road, Brondesbury, London, N.W. (Feb. 1906).

MARTIN, Mrs. HORACE, 13, Hillside, Wimbledon, Surrey. (May, 1904).

SMITH, J. Woodlands, Kendal.

☞ *The Hon. Editorial Secretary requests that he may be promptly advised of any errors or omissions in the above list.*

Rules.

1. The objects of "The Foreign Bird Club" shall be the mutual encouragement and assistance of the members and associates in the keeping, breeding, and exhibiting of Foreign Birds, and the improvement of Shows in regard to them.

2. The Club shall be composed of members and associates. Every member shall pay an entrance fee of 2 6 and an annual subscription of 10/-. Every associate shall pay an entrance fee of 2/6 and an annual subscription of 5/-. Associates shall have such of the privileges of members as the Council shall from time to time direct. Subscriptions shall be due and payable in advance on the 1st of March in each year. If any member's or associate's subscriptions shall be more than three months overdue he shall be suspended from all the benefits of the Club, and if more than nine months overdue, notice of his having ceased to be a member or associate of the Club, and of the cause, may be published in the Notices to Members; and on such notice being published he shall cease to be a member or associate accordingly, but his liability for the overdue subscriptions shall continue.

3. New members shall be proposed in writing by a member of the Club and new associates by either a member or an associate; and the name and address of every person thus proposed, with the name of the person proposing him, shall be published in the Notices to Members. Unless the candidate shall, within fourteen days after the publication of his name, be objected to by at least two members, he shall be duly elected. If two or more members lodge with either of the Secretaries objections to any candidate he shall not be elected, but the signature to the signed objections must be verified by the Scrutineer. The Secretaries and the Scrutineer shall not disclose the names of the objectors. Associates desirious to become members shall go through the same form of election as other candidates but shall not pay an entrance fee.

4. Any member or associate wishing to resign at the end of the current year of the Club shall give notice of his intention to one of the Secretaries before the 1st of February, and in default of such notice he shall be liable for the following year's subscription.

5. The officers of the Club shall be elected from the members and shall consist of a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, an Auditor, a Scrutineer, one or more Secretaries, a Treasurer, a Council of twelve members, and such number of Judges as shall from time to time be determined by the Council. The Secretary or Secretaries and the Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of the Council. The Secretary or Secretaries. and Treasurer shall be elected triennially. The Council, and the Judges shall be elected annually by the members in manner hereinafter provided. The other officers shall be elected annually at a meeting of the Council immediately after their own election.

6. The election of the Council and Judges shall take place every year between the 15th of January and the 5th of February. The Secretaries shall ascertain which of the members are willing to stand for election to office, and shall send to each member of the Club, on or about the 15th of January, a voting paper containing a list of all such members, showing

the offices for which they are respectfully seeking election. Each member shall make a cross (X) opposite the names of those for whom he desires to vote, and shall sign the paper at the foot and send it in a sealed envelope to the Scrutineer, so that he may receive it before the 5th of February. The Scrutineer shall prepare a return of the officers elected, showing the number of votes recorded for each candidate and send it to one of the Secretaries for publication in the Notices to Members for February. The Scrutineer shall not reveal to any person how any member shall have voted. In an event of an equality of votes the President shall have a casting vote.

7. Dealers in birds shall not be eligible for election to any office in the Club, except that of Judge. For the purpose of this rule, any member who habitually buys birds with the intention of selling them again shall be deemed a dealer in birds. Before the annual election of officers, the Secretaries shall submit to the Council the list of members willing to stand for election to the Secretaryship, the Treasurership, and the Council, and the Council shall remove from the list the name of any candidate who shall be, in the opinion of the Council, a dealer in birds within the meaning of this rule. The decision of the Council, or of any Committee to whom the Council shall delegate its power under this rule, shall be final. When a dealer is proposed as a member of the Club, the fact of his being a dealer shall be stated in the Notices to Members.

8. It shall be lawful for the Council to delegate any of its powers to a Committee.

9. The Council may appoint an Arbitration Committee, which may decide questions at issue between members and associates when requested to do so by both parties. Any decision of such Committee shall be final. Except to the extent permitted by this rule, the Club and its officers shall decline to concern themselves with disputes between members.

10. The Council shall have power to alter and add to the Rules, but shall give to the members notice of any proposed alteration or addition, and in the event of six members objecting thereto within fourteen days the proposed alterations or addition shall be submitted to the votes of the members. Failing such objection the alteration or addition shall date from its adoption by the Council.

11. The Council shall have power to expel any member or associate at any time.

12. Neither the office of Scrutineer nor that of Auditor shall be held for two consecutive years by the same person. The Scrutineer shall not be a candidate at any election at which he acts as Scrutineer.

13. If any office becomes vacant at any time other that at the end of the current year of the Club, the Council shall have power to nominate any member to fill the vacancy.

14. The decision of the majority of the Council shall be final and binding on the Club, but a resolution passed by the Council shall not be acted upon unless there be an absolute majority of the Council (and not merely of those voting) in its favour.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: We have sent this issue to all members, whether their subscriptions have been paid to the Hon. Treasurer or otherwise. May we ask that these may be promptly sent in, so as to prevent any unnecessary drain on the time of the Honorary Officers or the funds of the Club.

THE MAGAZINE: This issue ushers in another Volume, and if this is to equal or surpass its predecessors, such can only be possible by the co-operation of all. *Copy must be sent freely.* We wish to be very clear upon one point: the Magazine will not meet the needs of all if only rare birds and aviaries are dealt with; if we are to be really comprehensive the following subjects must all have a place in its pages:—

British Birds—Foreign Birds, common *i.e.* freely imported **and rare species—Out-door Aviaries—Cages and Birdrooms—**

in fact every aspect of AVICULTURE must be dealt with, if the need of our increasing and varied membership is to be met, and the tyro as well as the experienced aviculturist find pleasure, assistance and interest in the pages of the Club Journal. We want an increased number of contributors, and in this connection we wish to emphasise that—*nothing is trivial—nothing is common*—more, many records are annually lost to aviculture owing to many assuming that their facts are too common and too well known. We desire to urge upon all members to keep a book of records and to let their fellow members have the benefit of it from time to time through the pages of the Magazine.

We are in want of copy for April issue; will some of our members who keep their birds in cages and have met with partial or full success in the keeping or breeding of their avian captives send us accounts of same? Such papers would be novel, very practical and intensely interesting, and we especially urge members with such experience to send us articles as above.

May we ask that all who have had partial or full success with the breeding of WAXBILLS during 1908 to send us in accounts of same?

We should like to see Correspondence a more prominent feature of the Magazine.

We have this month inaugurated our long promised innovation—*Bird Notes from Far and Near*—and we hope this will increase in interest and usefulness month by month. The idea is to embody items of Foreign and European aviculture under this heading, culling same from the foreign press and per members and members' friends residing abroad.

We ask for and feel assured of the hearty co-operation of all.

WESLEY T. PAGE,
Hon. Editorial Secretary.

New Members Elected.

The Countess of **Suffolk** and **Berkshire**; Charlton Park, Malmesbury.
Mrs. C. A. **Longdon**; Arreton, Epsom Road, Guildford.
Paul Vollmar; 68, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.
R. L. **Crisp**; 58, Elm Park Road, Chelsea, London, S.W.
J. **Delacour**, F.Z.S.; 76, Eaton Place, S.W.
R. M. **Woodall**, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.; Hetton-le-Hole, Co. Durham.
Miss E. G. R. **Peddie Waddell**; 4, Great Stuart Street, Edinburgh.
A. E. **Jamrach**; 180, St. George's Street, London, E.
Miss M. E. **Cope-Proctor**; 19, St. George's Square, Stamford, Lincs.
G. R. **Montague**; 63, Croxted Road, West Dulwich.

Transfer from Associates to Members' Roll.

Lythgoe, G. W. F.
Meadows, J. C. W.

Proposed for Election as Members.

E. **Riley**, 16, Talbot Road, Old Trafford, Manchester.
by G. W. F. **Lythgoe**.
G. E. **Rattigan**, "Lanarkslea," Cornwall Gardens, London, S.W.
by H. **Robbins**.
Capt. S. S. **Flower**, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Kedah House, Zoological Gardens, Giza, Egypt.
by H. R. **Fillmer**.
Dr. **Maurice Amsler**, High Street, Eton, Windsor.
by W. R. **Temple**.
Miss R. **Alderson**, Park House, Worksop, Notts.
by H. **Willford**.
Miss A. **Bruce**, 42, Hill Street, Berkley Square, London, W.
by Lady **Kathleen Pilkington**.
King, Frank, High Holm Nurseries, Louth, Lincs.
by R. **Suggitt**.
W. **Cook**, 24, Hyde Park Gardens, London, W.
W. **Denton**, Eastfield, Claremont, Halifax.
by the Hon. Editor.

◆

Illustration Fund.

The Council thankfully acknowledge the following donations towards the Illustration Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Mrs. **Anningson**	1	1	0
W. **Bamford**	1	0	0
J. V. **Ellis**	0	10	0
W. M. **Fasey**	0	10	0
W. B. **Marmont**	0	5	0
Dr. G. **Master**	0	5	0
H. L. **Sich**	0	10	0
Mrs. M. **Toye**	0	5	0
Miss L. M. St. A. **Wait**	0	10	0
H. **Willford**	1	0	0
Miss F. M. **Wilson**	0	10	0
Mrs. W. F. **Henderson** } Subscriptions	0	0	6
Mrs. **Perreau** } overpaid	0	0	6

THE BIRD MARKET.

All advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month.

Charge: Members' advertisements, four words a penny;
Non-Members, three words a penny.

MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

COLOURED PLATES: The following are in stock: Vinacious Finch, Orange Flanked Parrakeet, Yellow Sparrow, Indian Roller, Tri-coloured Tanager, Waxwing, Sepoy Finch, Senegal Parrot and Gouldian Finch. These can be supplied to members uncut, for framing, at 1/- each. Any others which have appeared in *Bird Notes*, can be coloured to order and supplied at the same rate. *Apply* The Hon. EDITORIAL SECRETARY.

WANTED: Bound copies or complete sets of loose parts of Vol. I.
Apply The HON. EDITORIAL SECRETARY.

ON SALE FOR BENEFIT OF ILLUSTRATION FUND:—*Feathered Friends, Old and New*, Dr. W. T. Greene, 2/6; *Reports of the U.K.C.B. Club*, 1892-3, 1893-4 & 1894-5 (unbound) 10/- the three sets. All in new condition; offers invited; donated by Mr. N. S. O'Reilly.
Apply The Hon. EDITORIAL SECRETARY.

EXCHANGE WANTED—Adult Cock Rosella Parrakeet for adult hen, from outdoor aviary; or would sell the latter.
PAGE, 6 Rylett Crescent, Shepherd's Bush, London, W.

African Red-headed Finches, perfect condition; kept in cold room; cheap to clear; 12/- pair; on approval.
H. E. BLISS, The Croft, Wallingford.

From Cold Aviary: Large house-moulted Bramble Finch 2/-; Rosy Pastor (believed hen) 10/-; pair Senegal Doves 12/6; pair Chinese Quails 25/6; pair Ruficaudas 15/6; cock Parson Finch 8/6 and Nonpareil cock 5/6, both bred in heated aviary; 1 Goldfinch mule (good songster) 10/-; several Bullfinches (house moulted) both sexes; Weavers, Red-billed, Madagascar and Orange; 1 Pintailed Whydah (nearly full colour) 6/6; and Budgerigars; seen any time.
Mrs. HODGKIN, 6, Priory Terrace, Kew Green.

Pair Black-cheeked Lovebirds £3 3/-; Mocking bird 20/-
Lady E. PENNANT, Newmarket.

Mrs. MILLER has Blue Mountain Lory for sale, perfect health and plumage, first prize winner; also Virginian Cardinal (cock) acclimatised and cage moulted. 27, Belgrave Road, S.W.

NATURAL HISTORY LIBRARY—Principally Ornithological; many old and rare. Thousands of engravings and coloured illustrations; full List being printed. On approval to members. Breaking up Library on account of going abroad.

Mr. J. DOBBIE, 12 Inverleith Gardens, Edin.

PIGEONS.—Pure white Fantails (Scotch type) same true bred strain for 30 years. No better blood, great style and action, large tails. Three pairs (all breeding) 2 guineas per pair, or 5 guineas to one buyer. Rare opportunity for any fancier taking up this breed and starting on right lines; approval with pleasure.

Mr. J. DOBBIE, 12 Inverleith Gardens, Edin.

NON-MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

German hand-reared, reed taught, piping Bullfinches £3 each, Chinese Spectacle Thrush 20/-, Cardinals, 5/-, Black-Throated 5/-, Adult breeding Budgerigars, selected pairs 6/6, Hens 3/6, Yellows 8/6 pair, Madagascar Lovebirds 3/6 pair, Moustache Parrakeets 9/- pair, White Javas 8/6 pair, cock California Quail 8/-, Silky Cowbird 6/- each, small Foreigners from 2/- pair, Rosey Pastors 9/-, Scarlet Weavers 5/6, Great Spotted Woodpeckers cage moulted, 20/-, Corn Bunting 3/-, Snow Bunting 5/-, British Finches from 1/- pair

Small pet animals: Squirrels, Monkeys, Kittens, Dogs, Puppies, etc.

Mealworms 1/6 1000, 5/- lb., 7/- quart. Husks for Budgerigars 5d. each, 3/6 dozen. Ants' eggs, Flies, Egg and all other Foods. "Insectovine" high-class Softbill Food, 1/6 lb. "Larkine" Softbill Food, 6d. lb. "Frusectovine," finest food for Tanagers, 1/6 lb.

Millet Sprays, 50 1/6, Full price list free.

Miss ALICE ROSEY, "Rosemary" House, Seaside Road, Eastbourne.

POST-MORTEM EXAMINATIONS.

The conditions upon which these will be made by Mr. Hy. Gray: M.R.C V.S., 23, Upper Phillimore Place, Kensington, W., are as follows,

(1) The birds must be sent IMMEDIATELY after death.

(2) They *must* be packed in a box.

(3) *The letter accompanying them must* NOT *be placed in the box along with the bird.*

(N.B. Unless the above conditions are complied with the package will be destroyed without examination).

(4) The letter must detail *as far as possible* all particulars as to
  (*a*) date of death,
  (*b*) length of illness,
  (*c*) symptoms of illness,
  (*d*) lodgment and feeding of birds, and
  (*e*) especially as to whether egg food or inga seed has been given.

(5) The work will be done gratuitously, and a report published in "Bird Notes," but *under no circumstances whatever will a report be sent by post unless a fee of 2/6 accompanies the letter and bird.* Pressure of work compels Mr. Gray to make this an invariable rule, and it applies to all members whether they are personally acquainted with him or not.

◆

BOUND VOLUMES OF "BIRD NOTES."

Volume I. is out of print.

Of Volume II. there remain only a few copies,

to Members and Associates - - -		10/-
to others - - - - - -		12/6

Volumes III., IV. & V. *with hand-coloured plates*

to Members and Associates	each	10/6
to others - - - -	,,	15/-

Volume VI. & VII. *with hand-coloured plates*

to Members and Associates	each	15/-
to others - - - - -	,,	20/-

Cases for binding Vols. I., II., III., IV., V., VI. and VII. may be had, price **1/3** each post free.

Application for Bound Volumes and cases must be made to the Publishers.

Cases for binding Vol. VII. now ready, to be obtained of the Publishers.

The Publishers will be pleased to bind member's copies at 2/9 each including Cover and return postage.

APRIL, 1909

The Foreign Bird Club.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

Will those members whose subscriptions are still unpaid, please remit to the Hon. Treasurer at once?

We announced last year a competitive scheme (suggested by Mr. W. E. Teschemaker) for the purpose of increasing our membership. This is now put into force, viz. THAT THE MEMBERS PROPOSING THE GREATEST NUMBER OF MEMBERS DURING THE YEAR, PROVIDING THE NUMBER BE NOT LESS THAN SIX, HAVE THEIR SUBSCRIPTION FOR THE CURRENT YEAR RETURNED.

We venture to hope that all members will enter into the spirit of the competition and that the result will be an influx of members.

May we still urge upon all members who can possibly do so, to supply Notes, Cuttings, etc., for the "Bird Notes from Far and Near Column."

WESLEY T. PAGE,
Hon. Editorial Secretary.

Illustration Fund.

The Council thankfully acknowledge the following donations towards the Illustration and Deficit Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Baldelli, La Contessa T.	0	7	6
Beaty, S.	0	10	0
Castle-Sloane, C.	2	0	0
Gray, H., M.R.C.V.S. (*Post mortem* fees)	0	5	0
Hubbard, Mrs. D. H.	0	5	0
Lewis, W. J.	1	0	0
Mathais, H. W.	0	5	0
Murray, Ivan (overpaid Subscription)	0	0	6
O'Reilly, N. S. (Sale of *Feathered Friends, Old & New*)	0	2	6
Pickles, W. H. (overpaid Subscriptions)	0	0	6
Scott, J. Easton, M.B.	0	10	0
Vernon, Mrs. Warren (overpaid Subscription) ..	0	0	6
	£5	6	6

Changes and Corrections of Address.

Miss M. **Bousfield**, Avon Court, Southbourne Road, Bournemouth.
G. B. **Wright**, c/o G. Heaton, Esq., Church Hill, Handsworth, Birmingham.
E. **Riley**, 66, Talbot Road, Old Trafford, Manchester.
D. **Dewar**, Cottfield, Montague Road, Datchet, Bucks.
A. **Savage**, 16, Rue Gibert, 16, Rouen, France.
E. W. **Harper**, 6, Ashburnham Road, Bedford.

Transfer from Associates to Members' Roll.

Hincks, Miss E. M.

New Members Elected.

E. **Riley**, 16, Talbot Road, Old Trafford, Manchester.
G. E. **Rattigan**, "Lanarkslea," Cornwall Gardens, London, S.W.
Capt. S. S. **Flower**, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Kedah House, Zoological Gardens, Giza, Egypt.
Dr. **Maurice Amsler**, High Street, Eton, Windsor.
Miss R. **Alderson**, Park House, Worksop, Notts.
Miss A. **Bruce**, 42, Hill Street, Berkley Square, London, W.
King, Frank, High Holm Nurseries, Louth, Lincs.
W. **Cook**, 24 Hyde Park, Gardens, London, W.
W. **Denton**, Eastfield, Claremont, Halifax.

Proposed for Election as Members.

W. E. **Austin**, Wandsworth Public Libraries, Allfarthing Lane Branch, Wandsworth, S.W. *by* the Hon. Editor.
Mrs. **Cockburn**, Sutton Rock, Chesterfield.
Mrs. **Smith-Ryland**, Château Mer et Monts, Mentone, France.
by the Hon. M. C. **Hawke**.
T. W. G. **Hewitt**, The Old Hall, Weelsby, near Grimsby.
by R. **Suggitt**.

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EXCHANGE WANTED: Adult Cock Rosella Parrakeet for adult hen, from outdoor aviary, or would sell the latter.
PAGE, 6, Rylett Crescent, Shepherd's Bush, London, W.

FOR SALE: Two vols. *Bird Notes*, Vols. II. and III., unbound, complete, price 6/- each; handsome pair Moustache Parrakeets 25/-; Mocking Bird 20/-, rather rough but healthy, both acclimatised.
Miss PEDDIE WADDELL, 4, Great Stewart Street, Edinburgh.

WANTED: Blue Sugar Bird, cock, in colour, house-moulted preferred.
M. ARMSTEIN, 30, Grand Parade, Cork.

WANTED: A hen Virginian Cardinal for outdoor aviary.
Miss E. M. FOSTER, 35. High Street, Huntingdon.

ARE YOU INTERESTED in Insectivorous, Frugivorous and Pollen Eating Birds? If so it is to your interest that your birds should have "BANANA CRYSTALS," the ideal food made from pure ripe Bananas and NEW LAID EGGS, *this I guarantee.* Write for sample lb. 1/-, post free, small sample free upon request. MILLSUM, Swindon, Wilts.

Borzoi Puppies. ready shortly, first rate pedigree, by Clayton-Prince £2 2s. to £5 5s., exchange for first-rate Parrakeets or Lories, mutual approval
HADLEY, Draper, Burton-on-Trent.

Yellow-vented Blue-bonnet, winner over 50 prizes and specials, 50/- ; lovely Many Colour, 2nd Nottingham, etc., a gem, £2 2s., or purchase first-rate hens; Magpie Tanager 35/- ; Archbishop 30/- ; winners repeatedly ; cock Rufous-back Mannikin 10/6; pair Peaceful Doves 6/-.
HADLEY, Burton-on-Trent.

FOR SALE: Pair Yellow Budgerigars, perfect, 12/6 ; cock Green Budgerigar 4/-. FOR EXCHANGE: Cock Zebra Dove for hen, or hen Diamond Dove for cock. Capt. REEVE, Leadenham House, Lincoln.

FOR DISPOSAL: Greater Nightingale, Lesser White-throat and Virginian Cardinal (lovely colour), all house-moulted, splendid songsters, perfect condition; also two cock Yellow-winged Sugar Birds, superb specimens, faultless, and pair Red-headed Gouldians, have bred in captivity. WESTON, 45, Clevedon Mansions, London, N.W.

NON-MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS

German hand-reared, reed taught, piping Bullfinches £3 each, Chinese Spectacle Thrush 20/-, Cardinals, 5/-, Black-Throated 5/-, Adult breeding Budgerigars, selected pairs 6/6, Hens 3/0, Yellows 8/0 pair, Madagascar Lovebirds 3/0 pair, Moustache Parrakeets 9/- pair, White Javas 8/6 pair, cock California Quail 8/-, Silky Cowbird 6/- each, small Foreigners from 2/- pair, Rosey Pastors 9/-, Scarlet Weavers 5/6, Great Spotted Woodpeckers cage moulted, 20/-, Corn Bunting 3/-, Snow Bunting 5/-. British Finches from 1/- pair

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Millet Sprays, 50 1/6, Full price list free.

Miss ALICE ROSEY, "Rosemary" House, Seaside Road, Eastbourne.

MAY 15th, 1909.

The Foreign Bird Club.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

UNPAID SUBSCRIPTIONS: There are still members who have overlooked the fact that subscriptions became due on March 1st. May we ask that such may be sent in at once, so that neither the officials time or the Club's funds may be used in making written application for same.

NEW MEMBER COMPETITION: At a recent Council Meeting it was agreed to alter this scheme slightly by removing the limit entirely for this year, hoping thereby to induce all members to enter into the competition. The conditions of the competition will be simply THAT THE MEMBER PROPOSING THE MOST NEW MEMBERS DURING THE YEAR, HAS HIS SUBSCRIPTION FOR THE CURRENT YEAR RETURNED.

We repeat the hope expressed in our last issue that all will enter into the spirit of the competition that the result may be a large influx of members.

Mr. G. E. Weston (London, N.W.) asks me to state that owing to a very sudden family bereavement he was unable to give attention to the replies received to his advertisement in last issue of *Bird Notes*. He has since been absent from London for a time. The above arrived too late for insertion elsewhere.

Mr. Weston has our deep sympathy in his sad bereavement.

WESLEY T. PAGE,
Hon. Editorial Secretary.

New Members Elected.

W. E AUSTIN, Wandsworth Public Libraries, Allfarthing Lane Branch, Wandsworth, S.W.

Mrs. COCKBURN, Sutton Rock, Chesterfield.

Mrs. SMITH-RYLAND, Château Mer et Monts, Mentone, France.

T. W. G. HEWITT, The Old Hall, Weelsby, near Grimsby.

Proposed for Election as Members.

Vincent E. Butler, "Ingomar," Chepstow Road, Newport, Mon.

Mr. Bush, The Art Schools, Dock Street, Newport, Mon.

Mr. Groves, The National and Provincial Bank, High Street, Newport, Mon.

by the Hon. Editor.

D. Croisdale-Kirk, Blair Athol, Llanishen, near Cardiff.

by T. Miller.

Kenneth Brotherton, 5, Tullibody Road. Alloa, Clackmannanshire, N.B. *by* Mrs. B. W. Hodgkin.

Dr. Alex. E. Boswell, Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

by J. H. Henstock.

E. Street, 75 and 76, Horninglow Street, Burton. *by* T. R. Hadley.

Changes and Corrections of Address.

N. S. O'Reilly, 2, West Terrace Mansions, The Leas, Folkestone.

Lieut. Kennedy, c/o Mrs. Kennedy, 7, Albion Road, Sutton, Surrey.

Mrs. Smith-Rylands, Barford Hill, Warwick.

Fred. G. R. Roth, 27, Morse Place, Englewood, N.J., U.S.A.

Illustration Fund.

The Council thankfully acknowledge the following donations towards the Illustration and Deficit Fund.

		£	s.	d.
Capt. Flower		0	7	6
A Friend	(Guarantee)	5	0	0
H. Gray	(*P. M.* Fees)	0	12	6
T. Miller	(Guarantee)	5	0	0
A. L. Keith Murray		1	0	0
N. S. O'Reilly	(sale of 3 sets U.K.C.B.A., deficit)	0	10	0
W. T. Page	(Guarantee)	5	0	0
Lady Edith Pennant		1	0	0
Capt. Perreau	(Deficit)	0	10	0
H. Wardale		0	10	0
Hon. W. B. Wrottesley		0	10	0

THE BIRD MARKET.

All advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month

Charge: Members' advertisements, four words a penny;
Non-Members, three words a penny.

MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

COLOURED PLATES: The following are in stock: Vinacious Finch, Orange Flanked Parrakeet, Yellow Sparrow, Indian Roller, Tricoloured Tanager, Waxwing, Sepoy Finch, Senegal Parrot and Gouldian Finch. These can be supplied to members uncut, for framing, at 1/- each; and also all of more recent issue.
Apply The Hon. EDITORIAL SECRETARY.

WANTED: Bound copies or complete sets of loose parts of Vol. I.
Apply The HON. EDITORIAL SECRETARY.

ON SALE FOR BENEFIT OF ILLUSTRATION FUND:—*Bird Notes*, Vol. II., 10/-, donated by Mr. N. S. O'Reilly.
Apply The Hon. EDITORIAL SECRETARY.

WANTED: Male Blue Robin and pair of Olive Finches.
Miss WAIT, 12, Rosary Gardens, London, S.W.

Rare Jamaica and Cuba Birds: private consignment: Cuba Finch and *Nigreta* (cocks), pair Jamaica Sugar Birds, Grey Grosbeaks, Unknown Warblers, Dusky Finches, Mocking Birds (Antillean) Colins (Florian, 2 hens, 1 cock) White-fronted, White-winged, White-crowned and Aurita Doves. Price and particulars on application. WANTED: hens Cockatiel and Bleeding Heart Pigeon. Crested and Senegal Doves for disposal.
Miss R. ALDERSON, Park House, Worksop, Notts.

WANTED: Cock Crimson Finch, cock White Java Sparrow, cock Diamond Dove; hen Long-tailed Grass Finch, hen Rufous Tail. FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE: hen Diamond Doves 6/-; cock Long-tailed Grassfinches 6/-; cock Rufous Tails 6/-; cock Blue-wing Love-birds 5/-; all from outdoor aviaries. MATHIAS, Stubbington, Hants.

WANTED: One pair Cockateels, unrelated, adult, outdoor, aviary bred.
M. J. FLANNERY, Barrack Street, Nenagh, co. Tipperary.

Will any member give a home (in aviary only) to a pair each of Green Budgerigars and Lavender-headed Lovebirds? Perfectly healthy birds wishing to nest. Mrs. MILLER, 27, Belgrave Road, S.W.

ARE YOU INTERESTED in Insectivorous, Frugivorous and Pollen Eating Birds? If so it is to your interest that your birds should have "BANANA CRYSTALS," the ideal food made from pure ripe Bananas and NEW LAID EGGS, *this I guarantee.* Write for sample lb. 1/-, post free, small sample free upon request. MILLSUM, Swindon, Wilts.

Stanley Parrakeet (*P. icterotis*) £4 4/- pair; 1 hen Many Color £1 10/-; Diamond Doves 15/- pair; Peaceful Doves 10/- pair; Bronzeneck Doves £1 5/- pair; 1 Sulphur Crested White Cockatoo, from the nest, talking, price £3 10/-; all acclimatized; also 1 Great Bower Bird's bower, complete £3 10/-. PAYNE & WALLACE, Little Zoo, Bath.

NON-MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

Rosellas 30/- pair, Pennants 30/- pair, Barnards 40/- pair, Cockateels 12/- pair, Rosy Cockatoos 8/6 pair, large Lemon-crested Cockatoos 25/- each, Piping Crows 30/- each, Hoopoes 25/-, Blue Rollers 30/-, Wrynecks 15/-, Great Black Woodpecker 35/-, Green Woodpecker 17/-, Great Spotted Woodpecker 15/-, Middle Spotted 15/-, Lesser Spotted 17/-, many other European birds end of May. Adult breeding Budgerigars, selected pairs 7/6, Yellows 8/6 pair, Madagascar Lovebirds 3/6 pair, Moustache Parrakeets 9/- pair, White Javas 8/6 pair, small Foreigners from 2/- pair, Scarlet Weavers 5/6, Corn Bunting 3/-.

Small pet animals: Squirrels, Monkeys, Kittens, Dogs, Puppies, etc.

Mealworms 1/6 1000, 5/- lb., 7/- quart. Husks for Budgerigars 5d. each, 3/6 dozen Ants' eggs, Flies, Egg and all other Foods. "Insectovine" high-class Softbill Food, 1/6 lb. "Larkine" Softbill Food, 6d. lb. "Frusectovine," finest food for Tanagers, 1/6 lb. Fox & Co.'s pure Egg and Biscuit 6d. and 1/- per tin. Millet Sprays, 50 1/6. Full price list free.

Miss ALICE ROSEY, "Rosemary" House, Seaside Road, Eastbourne.

JUNE 15th, 1909.

The Foreign Bird Club.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

IMPORTANT.—At a recent meeting of the Council it was proposed to alter the Club year from—

as at present March 1st to February 28th,

TO JANUARY 1st TO DECEMBER 31st.

The present arrangement of overlapping into two years, causes much confusion among many of the members, besides increasing the work of the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, and they strongly urged the change.

As the proposed change was an important one, and would involve the current volume being two numbers short, nine instead of the usual eleven, a vote of the *whole* Council was taken on the question. The result is as follows:—

For the change **10**; Against **3**.

Thus by a large majority the Council have decided in favour of the change and the Club year will, in future, commence on January 1st and terminate on December 31st of each year.

We would point out, that though this change means two numbers short for current volume of *Bird Notes*, if copy is to hand, the volume will be but little, if any, smaller than its predecessors in bulk, and *the full number of coloured plates will be issued.*

EXHIBITIONAL. There was also a strong desire expressed to do more to encourage the exhibition of Foreign Birds; after much discussion it was generally felt that in the present financial position we could not draw on the regular funds for this purpose; however, it was unaminously decided to have two silver cups to be competed for among the members—one for London, the other for the Provinces; two members of the Council promising one guinea each towards the cost. As regards the conditions of competition I have received the following from Mr. Townsend, *Exhibitional Secretary* :—

"Delete rule 7 and add in place :

> "The London Silver Cup, value £4. 4. 0., will be offered for com-
> "petition at any London Show having our patronage, where ten or
> "more classes are given."
> "The Provincial Silver Cup, value £2. 2. 0., will be offered for com-
> "petition at any Provincial Show having our patronage, where six or
> "more classes are given ; for the best Foreign Bird in the Show
> "exhibited by a member. No member can win a Cup more than
> "once in a season. No Medal or Cup shall be awarded at any Show
> "unless three members compete, and the Cup will not be awarded if
> "more than one class is cancelled."

Members are supposed to know this rule as it will not be published in Schedules advertising the Cup, and it also remains for members to get their Show Secretary to apply for same.

We shall be glad to receive donations to make up the cost of these Cups, four guineas being still required.

The Magazine Committee much regret the irregular and tardy appearance of the last (May) issue—the issue was ready and the uncoloured series issued on May 15th ; but owing to an unforseen and unavoidable delay arising in connection with the colouring of the plates, some portion of the edition was not despatched till May 28th.

WESLEY T. PAGE,
Hon. Editorial Secretary.

Illustration Fund.

The Council thankfully acknowledge the following donations towards the Illustration Fund and Deficit.

		£	s.	d.
Dr. Alex. Boswell ..	.. .. ..	0	7	6
H. Gray, M.R.C.V.S.	.. .. (*P.M.* fee)	0	2	6
Mrs. W. F. Henderson	.. .. ..	0	10	6
Dr. A. Walker ..	(overpaid subscription)	0	0	6
		£1	1	0

New Members Elected.

Vincent E. Butler, "Ingomar," Chepstow Road, Newport, Mon.

Mr. Bush, The Art Schools, Dock Street, Newport, Mon.

H. M. Groves, The National and Provincial Bank, High Street, Newport, Mon.

D. Croisdale-Kirk, Blair Athol, Llanishen, near Cardiff.

Kenneth Brotherton, 5, Tullibody Road, Alloa, Clackmannanshire, N.B.

Dr. Alex. Boswell, Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

E. Street, 75 and 76, Horninglow Street, Burton.

Proposed for Election as Members.

J. M. Kenworthy, Meadowcroft, Windermere. *by* S. Beaty.

Sir William Treloar, Bart., Grange Mount, Norwood, Surrey.
by Tinniswood Miller, F.Z.S.

W. Shore Baily, Boyors House, Westbury, Wilts.
by the Hon. Editor.

L. J. Dobie, Moorland House, Heswall, Cheshire.
Proposed and seconded by W. R. Temple and Dr. Amsler.

Changes and Corrections of Address.

Dr. McDonagh, 65, Elsham Road, Kensington, London, W.

Geo. W. Lythgoe, 76, Shrewsbury Road, Old Trafford, Manchester.

D. Dewar, Cottfield, Montagu Road, Datchet, Bucks.

◆

THE BIRD MARKET.

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MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

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Apply The Hon. Editorial Secretary.

WANTED: Bound copies or complete sets of loose parts of Vol. I.
Apply The Hon. Editorial Secretary.

On Sale for benefit of Illustration Fund:—*Bird Notes*, Vol. II., 10/-, donated by Mr. N. S. O'Reilly.
Apply The Hon. Editorial Secretary.

The Publishers have kindly donated their file copy of Vol. I. *Bird Notes* to the Illustration Fund—Bound, slightly soiled. Offers invited.
Apply The Hon. EDITORIAL SECRETARY.

Hen Cinnamon Sparrow 4/-; cock Madagascar Weaver 3/6: cock Combassou 2/6. WANTED: hens Long-tailed Grassfinches.
H. BOTTING, "Mountside," Harrow Road, Dorking.

FOR SALE: From outdoor aviaries—Chinese Quails 20/- pair; Silver Pheasants 15/- pair; all in fine condition.
DOUGLAS KIRK, Llanishen, near Cardiff.

FOR SALE: *Bird Notes*, Vols. II., III. and IV.; also *Lloyd's Natural History*, Vols. I. and II., bound, perfect condition. Crimson-crested Cardinal 10/6, 2 years, a beauty; pair of Coral-necks, bred in cage, 7/6
JAMES STOREY, 124, Boundary Road, N.W.

Borzois: several first rate puppies for disposal, straight, sound, well-grown, and the best of breeding. Would exchange for first rate foreign birds, mutual approval, or sell, £2. 2. 0. upwards. Also cock Yellow-vented Blue Bonnet, winner of over 50 firsts and specials, and cock Many-colour, living gems; or would purchase hens.
T. R. HADLEY, Burton-on-Trent.

Offers wanted for two cock Scarlet Tanagers and hen Bourke's Parrakeets, all acclimatized, fine plumage. Gouldian Finches wanted.
CREASEY, 48, Albert Grove, Longsight, Manchester.

Stanley Parrakeet (*P. icterotis*) £4 4/- pair; 1 hen Many Color £1 10/-; Diamond Doves 15/- pair; Peaceful Doves 10/- pair; Bronzeneck Doves £1 5/- pair; 1 Sulphur Crested White Cockatoo, from the nest, talking, price £3 10/-; all acclimatized; also 1 Great Bower Bird's bower, complete £3 10/-. PAYNE & WALLACE, Little Zoo, Bath.

NON-MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

June 2nd. Arrived by the S.S. *Wilcannia*, direct for D. De Von & Co., **2453** pairs Budgerigars, **1616** pairs Zebra Finches, **91** pairs Diamond Doves and a quantity of Blue Bonnets, White-crested Cockatoos, Rose Cockatoos and Corallas. Call and see the stock or send for price lists. Also every other variety of birds for show and aviary. D. DE VON, 114, Bethnal Green Road, London. Telephones: 5489 London Wall, and 7708 Gerrard. Telegraph: 'Oiseaux,' London.

Rosellas 30/- pair, Pennants 30/- pair, Barnards 40/- pair, Cockateels 12/- pair, Rosy Cockatoos 8/6 pair, large Lemon-crested Cockatoos 25/- each, Piping Crows 30/- each, Hoopoes 25/-, Blue Rollers 30/-, Wrynecks 15/-, Great Black Woodpecker 35/-, Green Woodpecker 17/-, Great Spotted Woodpecker 15/-, Middle Spotted 15/-, Lesser Spotted 17/-, many other European birds end of May. Adult breeding Budgerigars, selected pairs 7/6, Yellows 8/6 pair, Madagascar Lovebirds 3/6 pair, Moustache Parrakeets 9/- pair, White Javas 8/6 pair, small Foreigners from 2/- pair, Scarlet Weavers 5/6, Corn Bunting 3/-.

Small pet animals: Squirrels, Monkeys, Kittens, Dogs, Puppies, etc.

Mealworms 1/6 1000, 5/- lb., 7/- quart. Husks for Budgerigars 5d. each, 3/6 dozen. Ants' eggs, Flies, Egg and all other Foods. "Insectovine" high-class Softbill Food, 1/6 lb. "Larkine" Softbill Food, 6d. lb. "Frusectovine," finest food for Tanagers, 1/6 lb. Fox & Co.'s pure Egg and Biscuit 6d. and 1/- per tin. Millet Sprays, 50 1/6. Full price list free.

Miss ALICE ROSEY, "Rosemary" House, Seaside Road, Eastbourne.

JULY 15th, 1909.

The Foreign Bird Club.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

IMPORTANT.—In the rules, re Cup Competition (in June issue), there was a printers' omission, which I failed to note when reading the proofs. To prevent confusion the rules in full are as follows:

> " Delete rule 7, and add in place:
>
> " The London Silver Cup, value £4. 4. 0., will be offered for competition at any London Show having our patronage, where ten or more classes are given."
>
> " The Provincial Silver Cup, value £2. 2. 0., will be offered for competition at any Provincial Show having our patronage, where six or more classes are given; for the Best Foreign Bird in the Show exhibited by a member. No member can win a Cup more than once in a Season."
>
> " The Cup must be won three times (not necessarily in succession) before becoming the property of the winner.
>
> " No Medal or Cup shall be awarded at any Show unless at least three members compete, and the Cup will not be awarded if more than one class is cancelled."

May we again be permitted to urge upon each individual member, the importance of each making known the Foreign Bird Club and its objects, to all interested in birds in their locality. If this were really done, we should double our membership in a few months, *and we venture to strongly urge all to do* what they can, so that this may be brought about.

We shall be pleased to supply specimen copies for this purpose, or to send them to prospective candidates on request.

We urge all our members to send us records of their birds, nesting notes (mere attempts often supply useful data), descriptions of aviary, rare acquisitions, etc., of either Foreign or British species. Will members residing out of England kindly send us Avicultural and Field Notes of the birds of their locality? By all assisting in this manner, the contents of our Magazine will be kept varied, interesting and practical; but this can only be accomplished by the co-operation of all.

WESLEY T. PAGE,
Hon. Editorial Secretary.

Post Mortem Reports *continued.*

PENNANT'S PARRAKEET. (Mrs. B. Croysdale). The bird was suffering from a caseous nodular disease of the skin.

PARROT FINCH. (Mrs. C. A. Longdon). Cause of death, pneumonia and enteritis. It is a very common diseased condition arising during wet changeable weather.

Cock GOULDIAN FINCH. (B. H. Creasey). Cause of death, pneumonia.

Cock NORWICH CANARY. (Kenneth Brotherton). The liver was undergoing atrophic fatty degeneration ; there were immense fatty deposits between and around the abdominal viscera.

Cock GREY SINGING FINCH. (R. E. Simpson). Cause of death, pneumonia.

Cock PARADISE WHYDAH. (R. E. Simpson). Cause of death, pneumonia.

Hen LEADBEATER COCKATOO. (Miss Drummond). Cause of death, enteritis. How long had the bird been in your possession ? If recently acquired will you kindly tell me where it was purchased ?

Bird Fever has been raging for the last two or three months ; it has decimated many bird-rooms and in every case encountered by the writer the disease was introduced by a newly-purchased bird. Bird fanciers should be very cautious in purchasing at this time of the year birds from dealers and even unscrupulous bird fanciers, who, as soon as they find they have disease in their bird-room dispose of their stock even to their fellow fanciers ! Freshly purchased birds should be isolated for at least six weeks.

HENRY GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

Illustration Fund.

The Council thankfully acknowledge the following donations towards the Illustration Fund and Deficit.

		£	s.	d.
C. Cushny		1	1	0
H. Willford		1	0	0
The Publishers	(Sale of File copy, Vol. I.)	0	17	6
N. S. O'Reilly	(Sale of Vol. II., *Bird Notes*)	0	10	6
Rev. R. E. P. Gorringe		0	10	0
Mrs. E. A. Hartley		0	10	0
L. W. Horton		0	10	0
Capt. J. S. Reeve		0	10	0
H. Wardale		0	10	0
Miss Drummond		0	5	0
Dr. Hetley		0	5	0
Hon. L. de Yardburgh Bateson		0	2	6
W. Pyke		0	2	6
		£6	14	0

New Members Elected.

J. M. Kenworthy, Meadowcroft, Windermere.
Sir William Treloar, Bart., Grange Mount, Norwood, Surrey.
W. Shore Baily, Boyors House, Westbury, Wilts.
L. J. Dobie, Moorland House, Heswall, Cheshire.

Proposed for Election as Members.

J. Higihbotham, Hyde House, Crescent Rise, Luton, Beds.
by J. C. W. Meadows.
Miss G. Anderson, Clopton Cottage, Bury-St.-Edmunds.
by Dr. G. Master.
Miss Katherine Webb, 35, Barton Road, Cambridge.
by Mrs. C. Anningson.

Changes and Corrections of Address.

Miss Busteed, 62, Comeragh Road, West Kensington.
Mrs. Cowper Cooper, Emery Down, Lyndhurst,
For H. M. Groves, under "New Members" in last issue, read H. M. Grove.

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THE BIRD MARKET.

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Apply The Hon. Editorial Secretary.

WANTED: Bound copies or complete sets of loose parts of Vol. I.
Apply The HON. EDITORIAL SECRETARY.

WANTED: King Parrakeet.
Hon. Lady HARVEY, Langley Park, Slough.

FOR SALE: One Mexican Rail, privately imported, species not yet ascertained, in perfect condition, quite tame, 35/-.
R. SUGGITT, Suggitt's Lane, Cleethorpes.

Doves, Violet or White-fronted, Aurita, White-winged Bronze-necked; at very low prices as room is wanted. WANTED: Two Yellow Budgerigars (hens).
Miss R. ALDERSON, Park House, Worksop.

Offers wanted for two cock Scarlet Tanagers and hen Bloodrump Parrakeet, all acclimatised, fine plumage. Gouldian Finches wanted.
CREASEY, 48, Albert Grove, Longsight, Manchester.

WANTED: Hen Californian Quail, adult.
Mrs. CROYSDALE, Hawke House, Sunbury-on-Thames.

Stanley Parrakeet (*P. icterotis*) £4 4/- pair; 1 hen Many Color £1 10/-; Diamond Doves 15/- pair; Peaceful Doves 10/- pair; Bronzeneck Doves £1 5/- pair; 1 Sulphur Crested White Cockatoo, from the nest, talking, price £3 10/-; all acclimatized; also 1 Great Bower Bird's bower, complete £3 10/-. PAYNE & WALLACE, Little Zoo, Bath.

NON-MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

Out-door bred Budgerigars 5/6 pair, Yellows 8/6, Hoopoes, Blue Rollers, Green Woodpeckers, Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers, Wrynecks, Creepers, etc. Foreign Aviary Birds in great variety from clean, well-kept aviaries. Full price list issued fortnightly, post free on application. Small pet animals of every description. Mealworms 1/6 1,000, 5/- lb. Husks for Budgerigars, ready for use, 3/6 doz., 5d. each. "Insectovine," high-class softbill food, 1/- lb. Foods and Seeds of every description.
Miss ALICE ROSEY, "Rosemary" House, Seaside Road, Eastbourne.

AUGUST 16th, 1909.

The Foreign Bird Club.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

SUMMER NUMBER: A new departure has been made with this issue and for the first time an August number is issued; we purposed issuing a coloured plate with it, but Mr. Goodchild has unfortunately been unable to complete same in time. We hope the issue will become permanent, and this should be so, providing our membership continues to increase; to this end, we venture to urge once more upon all the importance of making the Club and its Magazine known to all keepers of Foreign Birds.

The Hon. Editorial Secretary will have much pleasure in sending a specimen copy and particulars to anyone at the request of a member.

We specially urge upon the attention of every member the Notices in July issue and request the co-operation of all that our aspirations may be fully realised.

WESLEY T. PAGE,
Hon. Editorial Secretary.

Illustration Fund.

The Council thankfully acknowledge the following donations towards the Illustration Fund.

	£	s.	d.
H. T. T. Camps	0	10	0
O. Millsum	0	10	0
	£1	0	0

New Members Elected.

J. HIGINBOTHAM, Hyde House, Crescent Rise, Luton, Beds.
Miss G. ANDERSON, Clopton Cottage, Bury-St.-Edmunds.
Miss KATHERINE WEBB, 35, Barton Road, Cambridge.

Proposed for Election as Members.

G. M. BROTHERSTON, 23, Jeffrey Street, Edinburgh.
by JAMES F. DEWAR.
THOS. COCHRANE, Linden Lea, St. Boswells.
EVELINE MALCHU, Wragmore, Southbury, Leighton Buzzard.
H. B. LARNER, Holt, Norfolk. *by* the Hon. Editor.

Change of Address.

Miss E. L. JARDINE, Zungew, Northern Nigeria.

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Apply The Hon. EDITORIAL SECRETARY.

WANTED: Bound copies or complete sets of loose parts of Vol. I.
Apply The HON. EDITORIAL SECRETARY.

WANTED: Black or Red-headed Gouldian cock, and hen Crimson Finch, state price; will exchange Brazilian Black-headed and British Siskin hybrid, 3 months old. M. ARONSTEIN, 30, Grand Parade, Cork.

Stanley Parrakeet (*P. icterotis*) £4 4/- pair: Diamond Doves 15/- pair; Peaceful Doves 10/- pair; Bronzeneck Doves £1 5/- pair; 1 Sulphur Crested White Cockatoo, from the nest, talking, price £3 10/-; all acclimatized; also 1 Great Bower Bird's bower complete £3 10/-.
PAYNE & WALLACE, Little Zoo, Bath.

NON-MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

Out-door bred Budgerigars 5/6 pair, Yellows 8/6, Hoopoes 20/- each, Blue Rollers 25/- each, Crossbills 5/- pair, Golden Orioles 30/-, Archbishop Tanagers 20/- each, Sugar Birds 25/- each, Bluish Tanagers 20/- each, Red-crested Cardinals 5/6 each, Black-throated Cardinals 5/6, White Javas 8/6 pair, tame Canary-wing Parrakeets 15/- each, a large number of Biahops, Weavers, Whydahs now coming into colour, fully acclimatised. Foreign Aviary Birds in great variety from clean, well-kept aviaries. Full price list issued fortnightly, post free on application. Small pet animals of every description. Mealworms 1/6 1,000, 5/- lb. Husks for Budgerigars, ready for use, 3/6 doz., 5d. each. "Insectovine," high-class softbill food, 1/- lb. Foods and Seeds of every description.
Miss ALICE ROSEY, "Rosemary" House, Seaside Road, Eastbourne.

D. DEVON, LTD., 114, Bethnal Green Road, London, E. Telephone 5489 wall. Telegraph "OISEAUX," London. LARGEST STOCK of adult breeding Budgerigars in Europe. 27 CASES OF RARE BIRDS and animals to arrive direct from our catchers in South America Aug. 13th. Write for Price List.

SEPTEMBER 15th, 1909.

The Foreign Bird Club.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

THE MAGAZINE: The present, profusely illustrated issue must not be taken as a precedent, as our funds would not permit such often—it is to meet the special requirements of what may be termed a "BREEDING RECORDS ISSUE"—some of the plates are given.

BRITISH BIRDS: We hope members will support this innovation and that any who keep indigenous species will contribute liberally to this section. While our main object is to deal with them aviculturally—Migration Notes, Interesting Occurrences, and General Field Notes will also be greatly appreciated. The success of this or any other feature lies with each individual member; and we hope each member will thus see their share of responsibility to the Magazine.

The Illustration Fund is still open, and contributions will be gratefully acknowledged by the Committee.,

Your attention is drawn to the Notices, etc., of the Exhibitional Secretary on page 37.

WESLEY T. PAGE,
Hon. Editorial Secretary.

New Members Elected.

G. M. BROTHERSTON, 23, Jeffrey Street, Edinburgh.

THOS. COCHRANE, Linden Lea, St. Boswells.

Viscountess EVELINE MALDEN, Wragmore, Southbury, Leighton Buzzard.

H. B. LARNER, Holt, Norfolk.

Proposed for Election as Members.

ROBERT E. PANWELS, Everberg par, Cortenberg, Belguim.
by Mrs. E. WARREN VERNON.

Sir CHAS. LAWES-WITTEWRONGE, Bart., Studio, Chelsea Gardens, London, S.W.
by T. MILLER, F.Z.S.

Changes and Corrections of Addresses.

EVELINE MALCHU, under "Members proposed," should read Viscountess E. MALDEN, Wragmore, Southbury, Leighton Buzzard.

JAMES P. STURROCK, M.D., Northcote, Edinburgh Road, Perth.

Miss M. A. McWILLIAM, 61, Elm Park Mansions, London, S.W.

Dr. J. E. R. McDONAGH, 19, Harley Street, London, W.

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Non-Members, three words a penny.

MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

COLOURED PLATES: The following are in stock: Vinacious Firefinch, Orange Flanked Parrakeet, Hawk-headed Parrot, Violet Parrot, Yellow Sparrow, Indian Roller, Tri-coloured Tanager, Black-cheeked Tanager, Superb Tanager, Blue and Maroon Tanager, Giant Barbet, Mexican Trogon, Rainbow Bunting, Painted Finches, Waxwings Senegal Parrot, Gold-fronted Parrakeet, Sepoy Finch, Group of 4 *Spermophila*, Group of Siskins, Green-billed Toucan and others. These can be supplied to members uncut, for framing, at 1/- each.
Apply The Hon. EDITORIAL SECRETARY.

WANTED: Bound copies or complete sets of loose parts of Vol. I.
Apply The HON. EDITORIAL SECRETARY.

FOR SALE: Complete sets and in new condition *Bird Notes*, unbound. Vol. I., 21/-; Vol. II., 17/6; Vols. III., IV. and V., 8/6 each; Vols. VI. and VII., 12/6 each. A near offer would be entertained for the complete set, Vols. I. to VII.
Apply to The HON. EDITORIAL SECRETAY.
6. Rylett Crescent, Shepherd's Bush, London, W.

FOR EXCHANGE: Eight pairs full grown Yellow Budgerigars, out door aviary. Hon. Lady HARVEY, Langley Park, Slough.

WANTED: Pair Black- and Red-headed Gouldian Finches; hen Rufous-tailed Grass-finch; hen Longtailed Grass-finch.
BOUSFIELD, 58, Southbourne Road, Bournemouth.

BLACK-CHEEK LOVE BIRDS: Mr. MATHAIS, Stubbington, Hants., has young birds, bred this year in his outdoor aviary, at 21/- each—strong, healthy, and in fine plumage and condition.

DOVES: Violet (or White-fronted) 18/-; Aurita 9/6; White-winged 11/6, all per pair; Hen Red Mountain-dove 15/-.
Miss R. ALDERSON, Park House, Worksop.

NON-MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

Out-door bred Budgerigars 5/6 pair, Yellows 8/6, Hoopoes 20/- each. Blue Rollers 25/- each, Golden Orioles 30/-, Red-crested Cardinals 5/6 each, Black-throated Cardinals 5/6, a large number of Bishops, Weavers, Whydahs now coming into colour, fully acclimatised. Foreign Aviary Birds in great variety from clean, well-kept aviaries. Full price list issued fortnightly, post free on application. Small pet animals of every description. Mealworms 1/6 1,000, 5/- lb. Husks for Budgerigars, ready for use, 3/6 doz., 5d. each. "Insectovine," high-class softbill food, 1/- lb. Foods and Seeds of every description. Large Millet Sprays 1/6 bundle.

Miss ALICE ROSEY, "Rosemary" House, Seaside Road, Eastbourne.

THE SHOW SEASON.

Regulations as to Club Medals and Cups

Made by the Show Committee of the Council.

1. All Medals and Cups shall be given for the Best Bird.

2. Members exhibiting at Shows where Club Medals are given, *must* place the initials "F.B.C." after each entry on the entry form, and request the Secretary to insert the same in the Show Catalogue.

3. No member shall win more than TWO Medals in one season—one silver and one bronze—or more than ONE Medal at the same Show.

4. No Medal shall be given at any Show, unless the Classification and the name of the Judge be first submitted to and approved by the Committee. Preference shall be given to Shows at which the Club's Classification is adopted and one of the Club's Judges appointed.

5. No Medal shall be given at any Show, where less than THREE Classes for Foreign Birds are provided, and no Silver Medal where less than SIX Classes. The Show Committee reserve the right of waiving this number at their discretion.

6 Medals given at OPEN SHOWS only. Birds in Members' Classes shall not compete.

7. (*a*) The London Silver Cup, value £4. 4. 0., will be offered for competition at any London Show having our patronage, where ten or more Classes are given.

   (*b*) The Provincial Silver Cup, value £2. 2. 0., will be offered for competition at any Provincial Show having our patronage, where six or more classes are given; for the Best Foreign Bird in the Show exhibited by a member. No member can win a Cup more than once in a Season.

   (*c*) The Cup must be won three times (not necessarily in succession) before becoming the property of the winner.

   (*d*) No Medal or Cup shall be awarded at any Show unless at least three members compete, and the Cup will not be awarded if more than one class is cancelled.

The Show Committee have granted our patronage to the following Shows. Other Shows receiving same will be announced in due course.

As has already been announced, through the kindness of some of our members, we have now two Silver Cups for competition: one for London and one for the Provinces, and it is hoped that these will induce more of our members to exhibit. Several Provincial Shows have already shown an enterprising spirit in increasing their classification to six classes in order to have the Cup for competition at their Shows, and it is hoped that members will do their best to support them.

The Show Committee wish to point out to members that by exhibiting at Shows advertised in the Magazine they are helping the Club, as all these advertisements are paid for.

Members are reminded that they must put "F.B.C." after EACH entry, as it is not possible for a Secretary who does not know anything about our membership to give a complete list to the Judge otherwise.

Rochdale. October 22nd and 23rd.

Classification for six classes for Foreign Birds. Silver Cup (see rules), winner to receive a Bronze Medal in token of having won the Cup once. Judge, Mr. C. A. HOUSE. Schedules from Mr. J. BUTTERWORTH, 28, Smith Street, Rochdale.

Burton-on-Trent. October 23rd.

Classification for four classes for Foreign Birds. One Bronze Medal. Judge, Mr. J. ROBSON. Schedules from Mr. J. ELLIOTT, 69. Queen Street, Burton-on-Trent

Manchester. October 29th and 30th.

Classification for six classes for Foreign Birds. Silver Cup (see rules), winner to receive a Bronze Medal in token of having won the Cup once. Judge, Mr. C. HOULTON. Schedules from Mr. G. W. F. LYTHGOE, 76, Shrewsbury Street, Old Trafford, Manchester.

3, Swift Street,
Fulham, S.W.

S. M. TOWNSEND,
Hon. Exhibitional Sec.

OCTOBER 15th, 1909.

The Foreign Bird Club.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

THE MAGAZINE: The present issue is the first of the current Vol. which has appeared with only a single illustration, we however hope it will not prove the least interesting. We had hoped to have issued a coloured plate, but the artist has been unable to complete, it will however appear in next issue with other illustrations.

THE MONTH'S ARRIVALS: Mr. Teschemaker, who usually supplies these, has been taking holiday and away from his library and dealers' establishments, he has been unable to contribute any notes this month, and, owing to business pressure I have found it quite impossible to fill the gap. I may however say that practically the whole of the list given in September issue are still on sale.

THE COUNCIL: The present Club year terminates on December 31st and the Hon. Editorial Secretary will be glad to hear from any member willing to serve on the Council for next year, so that voting papers may be distributed in accordance with the Club rules.

We desire to express our sincere thanks for the hearty support that has been given to the Illustration and Deficit Fund, thereby enabling the present standard of the Club Magazine to be maintained.

The Balance Sheet (somewhat belated owing to extreme business pressure preventing my getting the accounts ready for audit) is published in this issue, and we feel sure it must be a cause of congratulation for all, that with our small membership, so good a result has been obtained.

The attention of our exhibiting members is drawn to the Notices and Show Advertisements on page 42.

WESLEY T. PAGE,
Hon. Editorial Secretary.

Post Mortem Reports *continued.*

LAVENDER FINCH. (Miss M. Greeven). Cause of death, pneumonia. Birds often die in a convulsive fit when suffering from pneumonia or some other complaint.

VIOLET-BACKED TANAGER COCK. (Miss Drummond). Cause of death, pneumonia. Sick birds very often pick at food which they do not seem to eat and yet appear very ravenous. I am of opinion it was a coincidence that your birds seem to go off and die when you stopped giving them oranges for a few days.

HEN CUBAN FINCH. (Dr. J. Easton Scott). I am of opinion exposure for the night was the cause of death The lungs were congested.

HEN BARNARD PARRAKEET. (J. C. W. Meadows). The cause of death was pneumonia. The condition of being "stuck in the moult" is generally due to ill-health or improper food.

GREEN CONURE. (W. T. Page). Cause of death was fatty and atrophied liver.

Answered by post: J. R. Hadley; W. R. Temple; The Countess of Winchelsea; G. Rattigan; H. Robbins.

HENRY GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

New Members Elected.

ROBERT E. PANWELS, Everberg par, Cortenberg, Belguim.

Sir CHAS. LAWES-WITTEWRONGE, Bart., Studio, Chelsea Gardens, London, S.W.

Proposed for Election as Members.

JAMES YEALLAND, Pondcast Farm, Haven Street, Isle of Wight.

J. SUMMER MARRINER, 4, The Drive, Ben Rhydding.
by The Hon. Editorial Secretary.

Major B. R. HORSBRUGH, Alkham Vicarage, near Dover.
by W. E. TESCHEMAKER, B.A.

W. H. RAVEN, 239, Derby Road, Nottingham.

Mrs. B. DOHERTY, Vernon House, Weston, Bath.
by the Hon. and Rev. Canon DUTTON.

Changes and Corrections of Addresses.

D. DEWAR, Allahabad, U. P., India.

E. HOPNINSON, D.S.O., etc., Gambia, West Africa.

THE BIRD MARKET.

All advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month
Charge: Members' advertisements, four words a penny;
Non-Members, three words a penny.

MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

COLOURED PLATES: The following are in stock: Vinacious Firefinch, Orange Flanked Parrakeet,* Hawk-headed Parrot, Violet Parrot, Yellow Sparrow, Indian Roller, Tri-coloured Tanager, Black-cheeked Tanager, Superb Tanager, Blue and Maroon Tanager, Giant Barbet, Mexican Trogon, Rainbow Bunting, Painted Finches, Waxwings Senegal Parrot, Gold-fronted Parrakeet, Sepoy Finch, Group of 4 *Spermophila*, Group of Siskins, Green-billed Toucan and others. These can be supplied to members uncut, for framing, at 1/- each.
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Apply to The HON. EDITORIAL SECRETAY.
6, Rylett Crescent, Shepherd's Bush, London, W.

WANTED: One or two pairs of Gouldian Finches, red or black.
Rev. J. PATERSON, Hollington, Hastings.

A number of Black-cheeked Lovebirds 20/- each; three pairs Chinese Painted Quails 25/- pair; four Hybrid Quails, between African Harlequin and Australian, 10/- each; about 20 pairs of Zebra Finches 5/- pair; all the above bred here this season; also magnificent pair Many-coloured Parrakeets, here three years, £3 10/-; or will exchange any or all the above.
W. R. TEMPLE, Ormonde, Datchet, Bucks.

Mrs. MILLER wants a cock Verditer Flycatcher or would sell hen to make up pair; hen just through moult, singing sweetly.
27, Belgrave Road, London, S.W.

WANTED: Hen Parrot Finch.
J. C. W. MEADOWS, 17, Cardiff Road, Luton.

NON-MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

BIRDS AND FOODS.—Miss ALICE ROSEY, "Rosemary" House, Seaside Road, Eastbourne, will be pleased to forward present Price List post free on application. Usual Foreign aviary Finches from 2/- pair; Budgerigars in finest possible condition from outdoor aviaries, Green 5/- pair, Yellow 8/- pair; White Javas 8/6 pair; Red-crested Cardinals 10/- pair; Nightjar 20/-; cock Blackcaps 5/-; Golden Oriole 30/-; Blue Tits 1/-; Oxeye 1/-; Cole 1/6; Marsh 1/6; Pied Wagtails 1/9; Reed Buntings 1/9; Woodlarks, cocks 2/-, hens 1/-: Wheatears 2/6; Robins 1/-; Nuthatches 5/- each; Crossbills 5/- pair; Goldfinches and Bullfinches 3/6 pair; Redpolls, Linnets, Larks, Chaffinches and Greenfinches 1/6 pair; Siskins 3/6 pair; Grosbeaks 20/- pair; Waxwings 40/- pair; Little Owls 10/- pair; Hawfinches 9/- pair.
After October 14th: Siberian Goldfinches, cock 4/- and 5/-, hens 2/-; Bullfinches 5/- to 7/-, hens 3/- to 4/- each.
For pet animals see price list issued fortnightly. Large Spray Millet 1/6 bundle; Cokernut Husks 5d each, 3/6 dozen; Cuttlebone 8d and 1/- lb.: "Insectorvine" 1/- lb., meets every requirement of a high-class insect food; "Gold of Pleasure" Seed 5d lb; all kinds of seeds and foods; Mealworms 1/6 1,000, 5/- lb, 7/6 quart; Cages and Aviaries at market prices.
Telegraphic Address: "ROSEMARY EASTBOURNE."

☞ When corresponding with advertisers please mention "Bird Notes."

THE SHOW SEASON.

The Show Committee have granted our patronage to the following Shows. Other Shows receiving same will be announced in due course.

The Show Committee wish to point out to members that by exhibiting at Shows advertised in the Magazine they are helping the Club, as all these advertisements are paid for.

Members are reminded that they must put "F.B.C." after EACH entry, as it is not possible for a Secretary who does not know anything about our membership to give a complete list to the Judge otherwise.

Newcastle. October 22nd and 23rd.

Classification for four classes for Foreign Birds. One Bronze Medal. Judge, Mr. J. ROBSON. Schedules from Messrs. CURRY and HUTCHINSON, 60, Grosvenor Gardens, Newcastle.

Clapham. October 27th and 28th.

Classification for three classes for Foreign Birds. One Bronze Medal. Judge, Mr. ALLEN SILVER. Schedules from Mr. A. C. ASKEW, 152, Manor Street, Clapham, London, S.W.

Norwich. October 30th and November 1st.

Classification for four classes for Foreign Birds. One Bronze Medal. Judge, Mr. J. ROBSON. Schedules from Mr. R. ROLL, Dalwood, Cecil Road, Lakeham, Norwich.

Nottingham. November 13th and 15th.

Classification for six classes for Foreign Birds, and an additional Class for Budgerigars (pairs). Silver Cup (see rules), winner to receive a Bronze Medal in token of having won the Cup once. Judge, Mr. C. HOULTON. Schedules from Mr. G. E. WILKINSON, 9, Wellington Square, Nottingham.

The Show Committee wish to thank some of our members who have very kindly presented three special prizes (confined to members of the F.B.C.) for the forthcoming L.C.B.A. Show at the Horticultural Hall, namely a Silver Model for the Best Bird in the Parrot Classes ; a Gold-centre Silver Medal for the best Tanager ; and an Old China Bowl for the Best Bird in the "Any Other Species" Class.

If any other members are desirous of presenting special prizes at this Show, will they kindly let me know at once in order that it may be in time to be printed in the Schedule.

3, Swift Street,
Fulham, S.W.

S. M. TOWNSEND,
Hon. Exhibitional Sec.

DONATIONS TO ILLUSTRATION AND DEFICIT FUND.

DONATIONS TO DEFICIT, 1907—8.

	£	s.	d.
A Member	8	0	0
Dunleath, Lady	2	2	0
Miller, Mrs. K. L.	10	0	0
Wrottesley, Hon. W. B.	0	10	0
	£20	12	0

DONATIONS TO ILLUSTRATION AND AND DEFICIT, 1908—9.

	£	s.	d.
A Member (*guarantee*)	5	0	0
Almond, Rev. F.	0	10	0
Anningson, Mrs. C.	1	1	0
Baker, Miss M. E.	0	10	0
Baldelli, La Countessa T.	0	7	6
Bamford, W.	1	0	0
Beaty, S.	0	10	0
Boswell, Dr. A.	0	7	6
Bousfield, Miss	0	10	0
Bromet, Mrs. H.	1	1	0
Camps, H. T. T.	0	10	0
Castle-Sloane, C.	2	0	0
Cushney, C.	1	11	0
De Yarburgh Bateson, Hon. L.	0	2	6
Drummond, Miss	0	5	0
Dunleath, Lady	1	0	0
Ellis, J. V.	0	10	0
Flower, Capt. S. S.	0	7	6
Gorringe, Rev. R.	0	10	0
Gray, H., M.R.C.V.S., (*P.M. fees*)	1	12	6
Hartley, Mrs. E. A.	0	10	0
Harvey, Lady	0	5	0
Henderson, Mrs. W. F.	0	10	6
Hetley, Dr.	0	15	0
Horton, L. W...	0	15	0
Hubbard, Mrs. D. L.	0	5	0
Hume, J.	0	2	6
Carried forward	£22	8	6

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	22	8	6
Keith-Murray, A. L.	1	5	0
Lewis, W. J.	1	0	0
Marmont, W. B.	0	5	0
Master, Dr. G...	0	5	0
Mathias, H. W.	0	5	0
Miller, Mrs. K. L. (*L.C.B.A. winnings*)	1	8	0
Miller, T. (*guarantee*)	5	0	0
Millsum, O.	0	10	0
Mortimer, Mrs.	0	7	6
Moulton & Co. (*sale of File Copy, Vol. I.*	0	17	6
Oakey, W.	0	5	0
O'Reilly, W. S. (*donation and sale of books*)	1	13	0
Overpaid Subscriptions (*odd sixpences*)	0	5	0
Page, W. T. (*guarantee*)	5	0	0
Paterson, Rev. John	0	7	6
Pennant, Lady E. D.	1	10	0
Perreau, Cap. G. A.	1	0	0
Porteous, C.	0	5	0
Pyke, W.	0	2	6
Reeve, Capt.	0	15	0
Robbins, H.	0	5	0
Rogers, W. T. ..	0	10	0
Roth, F. G. R.	0	5	0
Scott, Dr. Easton	1	0	6
Sich, H. L.	0	15	0
Simpson, R. E.	0	5	0
St. A. Wait, Miss	0	10	0
Suggitt, R.	1	1	0
Toye, Mrs.	0	5	0
Ward, Hon. Mrs. Somerset	0	5	0
Wardale, H.	1	10	0
Westacott, H. ..	0	5	0
Willford, H.	2	10	0
Wilson, Miss F. M.	0	10	0
Wrottesley, Hon. W. B.	0	10	0
Total	£55	1	0

BALANCE SHEET of the FOREIGN BIRD CLUB, for the year ending February 28th, 1909.

DR.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Balance due to Treasurer (deficit 1907-8)				18	5	2
Printing *Bird Notes*, Mar. '08 to Feb. '09				107	10	0
COLOURED PLATES:						
Artists' Fees, Hire of Stones, Printing and Hand-colouring Current & Stock Plates	48	7	6			
Less proper to 1909	10	0	0			
				38	7	6
BLACK & WHITE ILLUSTRATIONS:						
Artists' Fees for Drawings, and Halftone Blocks				25	6	9
Stationery and Miscellaneous Printing	1	17	6			
Advertisements..	1	1	6			
				2	19	0
PUBLISHING ACCOUNT:						
Covers for Binding	1	17	10			
Moulton & Co., Publishing	2	15	0			
do. Postage, etc., distributing *Bird Notes*	14	14	9			
do. Envelopes, Millboards, &c.	3	16	0			
do. Publishers' Commission	1	4	6			
				24	8	1
POSTAGE, CARRIAGE AND SUNDRIES:						
Editor and Secretary	8	6	3			
Treasurer	1	8	9			
Show Secretary	0	9	6			
				10	4	6
Bank Charges and Cheques				0	3	4
Medals				3	15	0
Design, Block, & Printing Club Certificates				1	15	6
				£232	14	10

CR.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Donations to cover deficit, 1907-8, as per list				20	12	0
Amount brought forward (Publishers)				0	8	3
201 Members' Subscriptions @ 10/- ..	100	10	0			
17 Associates' ,, @ 5/- ..	4	5	0			
69 Entrance Fees @ 2/6	8	12	6			
				113	7	6
Advertisements: Trade	9	7	0			
,, Show	1	18	0			
,, Bird Market ..	4	17	0			
				16	2	0
Sales: Bound Vols. *Bird Notes* ..	9	3	6			
,, Coloured Plates, etc.. ..	7	7	0			
,, Current Numbers	2	11	0			
,, Binding Cases	1	3	10			
				20	5	4
Donations as per list..				55	1	0
Sundries						
Balance carried forward (Publishers' A/c)				2	14	2
,, ,, ,, (Treasurer's A/c)*				4	4	7
				£232	14	10

* Fully covered by outstanding donations and Trade Advert. A/c.'s all good.

TINNISWOOD MILLER, *Hon. Treasurer.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editorial Secretary.*

Audited and found correct 15th Sept., 1909,
HAYWARD W. MATHIAS.

NOVEMBER 15th, 1909.

The Foreign Bird Club.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

THE COUNCIL: This is not yet complete, a list and if necessary voting papers, will be included in next issue.

The attention of members is directed to the notices of the Exhibitional Secretary on pages 47 and 48, these being of much import to exhibitors this month.

WESLEY T. PAGE,
Hon. Editorial Secretary.

Change and Correction of Address.

N. S. O'REILLY, 80, Marine Parade, Brighton.

New Members Elected.

JAMES YEALLAND, Pondcast Farm, Haven Street, Isle of Wight.
J. SUMMER MARRINER, 4, The Drive, Ben Rhydding.
Major B. R. HORSBRUGH, Alkham Vicarage, near Dover.

Proposed for Election as Members.

LORD WILLIAM CECIL, 23, Queen's Gate Gardens, London, S.W.
by TINNISWOOD MILLER F.Z.S.
W. EDMUNDS, Coomb Farm, Langton Matravers, Dorset.
NEVILLE WILLFORD, Havenstreet, Isle of Wight.
by H. WILLFORD.

THE BIRD MARKET.

All advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month

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FOR SALE: Complete sets of loose parts. Vol. I. and II., 21/- each; Vol. VII., 12/6. New condition.
Apply to The Hon. EDITORIAL SECRETARY.

FOR SALE: *The Bird World*, 12 parts, all issued, as new, 3/6 lot.
Apply to The Hon. EDITORIAL SECRETARY,
6, Rylett Crescent, Shepherd's Bush, London, W.

FOR SALE: Jamacian Hangnest, in good condition, been in birdroom 2½ years. PAGE, 6, Rylett Crescent, Shepherd's Bush, London, W.

FOR SALE: Six pairs adult Yellow Budgerigars 7/- from out-door aviary; 1 cock Blue-Bonnet Parrakeet 25/-; wanted 1 Silver Hen Pheasant. Hon. Lady HARVEY, Langley Park, Slough.

WANTED: Certain cock Peach-faced Lovebird.
W. R. TEMPLE, Ormonde, Datchet, Bucks.

FOR SALE: Young Himalayan Grey-winged Ouzel, aviary bred, make good songster, 35/-; also adult hen Rosella Parrakeets, 3 years in outdoor aviary, 20/- each, or would exchange one for adult male.
PAGE, 6, Rylett Crescent, Shepherd's Bush, London, W.

Silver-eared Mesias, true pair, large size, absolutely hardy, shown signs of nesting, perfect but not in show form, £5 5/-; Many-colour Parrakeets, exquisite pair, finest possible order, constant winners, have wintered out £4 4/-; Borzoi (Russian Wolf-hound) Dog-pup, age 7 months and stands over 29 inches already, wonderfully fine head, dense coat, straight and sound, finest possible breeding, £6 6/-.
T. R. HADLEY, Burton-on-Trent.

NON-MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

Pine Grosbeaks 15/- pair; Siberian Bullfinches, cocks 7/6, hens 4/6; German Bull-finches, cocks 3/6, hens 1/6; Goldfinches, Siskins 3/6 pair; Nightjar 20/-; outdoor Budgerigars 5/- pair; Yellows 8/- pair
Mealworms 1/6 1,000, 5/- lb., 7/6 quart; Husks for Budgerigars 5d each, 3/6 dozen; Ants' Egg 1/6 lb; Insectovine, finest insect food, 1/- lb; Larkine 6d lb; Large Millet Sprays 50 for 1/6 Full price list free
Miss ALICE ROSEY, "Rosemary" House, Seaside Road, Eastbourne.

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THE SHOW SEASON.

The Show Committee have granted our patronage to the following Shows. Other Shows receiving same will be announced in due course.

Members are reminded that they *must* put "F.B.C." after EACH entry, as it is not possible for a Secretary who does not know anything about our membership to give a complete list to the Judge otherwise.

L.C.B.A Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster.

November 26th to 29th.

Classification for twelve classes for Foreign Birds and one Foreign Birds selling class. Silver Cup (see rules), and three Silver Medals. Judge, Mr. HUBERT D. ASTLEY. Schedules from Messrs TYSON and MUGFORD, 73, Cloncurry Street, Fulham Palace Road, London, S.W.

Brighouse. November 27th.

Classification for six classes for Foreign Birds. Silver Cup (see rules), winner to receive a Bronze Medal in token of having won the Cup once. Judge, Mr. F. HOWE. Schedules from Mr. F. MITCHELL, 9, Marion Street, Brighouse, Yorks.

Luton. December 8th.

Classification for five classes for Foreign Birds. One Bronze Medal. Judge, Mr. A. SILVER. Schedules from Mr. E. CHERRY, 4, Peel Street, Luton, Beds.

Gateshead. December 10th and 11th.

Classification for four classes for Foreign Birds. One Bronze Medal. Judge, Mr. DEWAR. Schedules from Mr. G. BUCK, 3, Keswick Street, Gasteshead-on-Tyne.

Edinburgh. Scottish National Show.

December 31st and January 1st.

Classification for six classes for Foreign Birds. Silver Cup (see rules), winner to receive a Bronze Medal in token of having won the Cup once. Judge, Mr. C. T. Maxwell. Schedules from Mr. JAMES WINTER, 11, Parkside Street, Edinburgh.

The Show Committee wish to call attention of members to the very liberal classification given by the L.C.B.A. at their forthcoming Show. the largest that Foreign Bird Exhibitors have had for many years. The last class "Any other species" has been divided into two sections (see schedule) as in previous years many deserving birds have been passed over as it was impossible to give prizes to all. It is hoped that exhibiting members will support this, as the Show authorities cannot be expected to extend their classification without support.

The Show Committee also wish to thank two more members, besides those announced last month who have given Specials, viz.: 5/- or a Silver Medal for the Best Bird in the Common Sead-eaters class; 5/- or a Silver Medal for the Best Bird in the rarer Waxbill class, and 5/- for the Best Bird in another class.

If members are in doubt as to which class to enter a bird, if they will write to me enclosing a stamped envelope I will do my best to assist them.

The following results are to hand regarding the Provincial Silver Cup and Medals.

ROCHDALE. Mr. O. Millsum, Cup, with Brown's Parrakeets.

NEWCASTLE. Not awarded, only two members competing.

BURTON-ON-TRENT. Mr. T. E. Hadley, Bronze Medal, with Chattering Lory.

MANCHESTER. Mr. J. H. Harrison, Cup, with Black-faced Sugar Bird.

IMPORTANT.

L.C.B.A. Show. There is an error in Schedule as to the allocation of F.B.C. Specials: it should read—

Spec. No

144 A handsome silver medal for the best bird shewn by a member in classes 160—163

145 Ditto ditto in classes 164—167

146 Ditto ditto in classes 168—171

A handsome china bowl for the best bird in classes 169—170 excluding the cup winners.

3, Swift Street,
Fulham, S.W.

S. M. Townsend,
Hon. Exhibitional Sec.

DECEMBER 15th, 1909.

The Foreign Bird Club.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

IMPORTANT. With this issue ends our eighth volume and also my term of office (three years) as Hon. Editor of the Magazine expires. Under these conditions I trust I may be pardoned if the following notices are of a somewhat personal nature.

In taking a brief review of this period, it is encouraging to note the fact that our increase has been substantial and progressive all through, moreover it still continues; nevertheless, I am bound to admit failure in one respect. viz, I had hoped our increase would have been sufficiently great for income to have covered the cost of the enlarged Magazine this has not been achieved and to this extent I have to record failure; this necessitates the keeping open of an "Illustration Fund" till such time as our income covers expenditure . . . . I trust all will join in one united effort to this end, that no retrogressive step may be necessary.

In my opinion, if we are to grow, the "progressive policy" must be continued, at the same time it may be taken that our expenditure has reached the maximum; in fact, certain economics will be possible, with the altered conditions and consolidation which will come into force with our next volume.

The prospects of the Club were never brighter, in spite of the difficulties of finance, and with one united two-fold effort—that is as regards the Illustration Fund and the seeking of new members—this, the only cloud upon our horizon, will soon disappear.

As regards the vol. just completed, we feel that all will be agreed that it is fully equal to any of its predecessors, and that the special features which were indicated in the opening issue, have been given practical effect to and, judging by correspondence received, the result of the mutual help of the members, through the pages of the Magazine, has been eminently satisfactory.

As regards the coming vol., all present features will be retained; several coloured plates are already in hand, which promise to surpass Mr. Goodchild's previous efforts; also series of articles on special groups are in contemplation.

As already intimated, my term of office as Hon. Editor expires on December 31st next. I am willing to undertake the office for a further period of three years, providing I am assured of your continued sympathy, support and aid, in the performance of a really ardous and anxious task (how ardous few realise). Given this I feel assured that the steady progress of the past three years will be maintained—but this can only be, by the united effort of all, your officers alone cannot achieve it. Judging by the experience of the past I am convinced this will be given.

In conclusion I would desire to thank all for their support and co-operation in the past, whether in contributing to the Magazine, supplying financial help, or as colleagues in office, for it is only by this combined aid that the progress of the past has been achieved.

We are again indebted to Mr. Henstock for preparing the whole of the indices, save that relating to "Genera and Species," and we tender him our best thanks.

We also tender our grateful thanks to Mr. W. E. Teschemaker for his interesting series of notes "The Month's Arrivals," and trust these will continue in the coming volume

In like manner we gratefully acknowledge our indebtedness to Mr. Gray for his work as Hon. Vety. Surgeon during the year. To those members retiring from the Council and office we tender our grateful thanks for valuable help and co-operation, ungrudgingly rendered during the year.

Wesley T. Page,
Hon. Editorial Secretary.

The following have kindly consented to serve on the Council during the coming year, and as the number is but 18 no election will be necessary.

The Countess of Winchelsea.
Miss M. E. Baker.
Miss Rosa Little.
Hon. W. B. Wrottesley, F.Z.S.
Dr. McDonagh.
H. Gray, M.R.C.V.S.
W. Bamford.
E. W. Chaplin.
Mrs. C. Anningson.
Dr. H. Hetley.
Dr. Easton Scott.
T. Miller, F.Z.S.
W. R. Temple.
H. W. Matthias.
W. T. Rogers.
J. H. Harrison.
A. Silver.
R. Suggitt.

Hon. Treasurer and Business Secretary:
H. Willford.

Change and Correction of Address.

Major B. R. Horsburgh, A.S.C., Morriston Biller, Newbridge, co. Kildare.
G. E. Weston, 66, Woodsome Road, Highgate Road, London, N. W.
W. Goodfellow, Mount Fleuri, Southbourne Grove, Bournemouth.
James Yelland, Havenstreet, I. of W.

New Members Elected.

Neville Willford, Havenstreet, Isle of Wight.
W. Edmunds, Coomb Farm, Langton Matravers, Dorset.
Lord William Cecil, 23, Queen's Gate Gardens, London, S.W.
* **J. H. Raven**, 239, Derby Road, Nottingham.

Proposed for Election as Members.

H. D. Astley, M.A., F.Z.S., Benham Park, Newbury, Bucks.
J. Robson, 28, Camden Grove, Peckham, S.E.
by S. M. Townsend.

Hon. **Gwendolen Bourke**, Glenorintten House, Oban, Argyleshire.
by W. Teschemaker, B.A.

Rev. G. H. **Rayner**, Hazeleigh Rectory, Maldon, Essex.
by T. R. Hadley.

Chas. Windle, Thirlmere, South End Road, Beckenham.
by Mrs. E. A. H. Hartley.

Miss **Vera Willford**, 6, Wellington Square, Chelsea, London, S.W.
H. G. Jeffrey, 75, Ryle Street, Newport, I. of W.
by H. Willford.

J. Frostick, 137, Endlesham Road, Balham, S.W.
by the Hon. Editor.

◆

THE BIRD MARKET.

All advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month

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Non-Members, three words a penny.

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* *Omitted in November issue.*

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Page, 6, Rylett Crescent, Shepherd's Bush, London, W.

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Miss Gibbons, Boddington Manor, Cheltenham.

THE SHOW SEASON.

The Show Committee have granted our patronage to the following Shows. Other Shows receiving same will be announced in due course.

Members are reminded that they *must* put "F.B.C." after EACH entry, as it is not possible for a Secretary who does not know anything about our membership to give a complete list to the Judge otherwise.

Edinburgh. Scottish National Show.

December 31st and January 1st.

Classification for six classes for Foreign birds. Silver Cup (see rules), winner to receive a Bronze Medal in token of having won the Cup once. Judge, Mr. C. T. Maxwell. Schedules from Mr. John Winter, 11, Parkside Street, Edinburgh.

If any members are desirous of presenting special prizes at the forthcoming Crystal Palace Show, will they kindly let me know in time to get them announce in the schedule.

The following results are to hand regarding the Silver Cups and Medals.

NORWICH. Not awarded, only two members birds competing.

NOTTINGHAM. Mr. J. H. Harrison had the first and second best bird, but he having previously won the Cup this season, it was not awarded.

L.C.B.A. Mr. O. Millsum, the London Silver Cup, with Hunstein's Bird of Paradise.

Mrs. K. Leslie Miller, Silver Medal, with Rainbow Bunting.

Mr. S. M. Townsend, Silver Medal, with Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot.

3, Swift Street,
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S. M. Townsend,
Hon. Exhibitional Sec.

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BIRD NOTES:

THE JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

EDITED BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S.

Vol. VIII. No. 1. MARCH, 1909.

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The Birds of Gambia .. .. E. HOPKINSON, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.
Aviary Birds I have met in their Natural State D. DEWAR, I.C.S., F.Z.S.
Miscellaneous Notes (1908) *from Ballywalter Park Aviaries (with plates)* LADY DUNLEATH
Experiences of Foreign Bird Importation .. .. R. SUGGITT
Parasitical Habits of the Silky Cowbird .. .. .. O. MILLSUM
Foreign Birds at the Crystal Palace .. .. W. T. PAGE, F.Z.S.
EDITORIAL: *Banana Crystals; University of California Publications. St. Helena Seedeater + Canary Hybrid.*
CORRESPONDENCE: *An Extraordinary Colour Change; A Private Consignment of S. African Birds; A Hybrid Grassfinch* (*a correction*).
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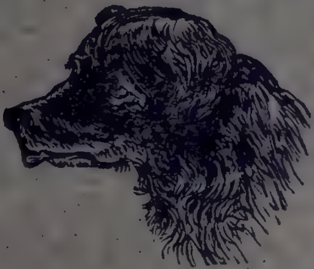

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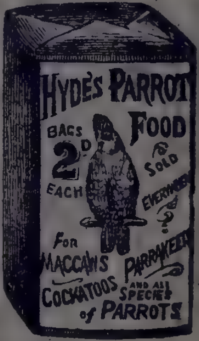
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EDITED BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S.

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Bird Notes from Far and Near: *Penduline Tits; Birds of Cape Colony.*
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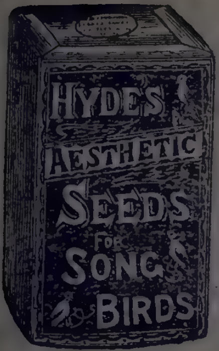
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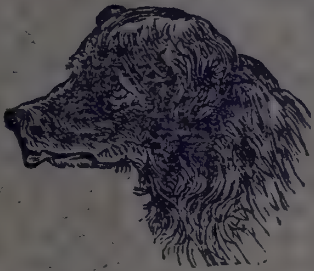

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- (*d*) lodgment and feeding of birds, and
- (*e*) especially as to whether egg food or inga seed has been given.

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EDITED BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S.

Vol. VIII. No. 3. MAY, 1909.

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Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S.

Book Notices and Reviews.

Editorial: *A Group of Interesting Acquisitions; Nesting Notes; Errata.*

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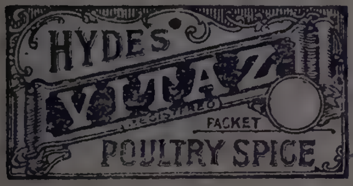
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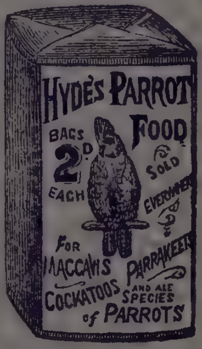
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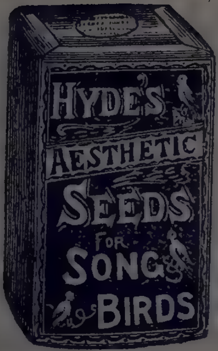
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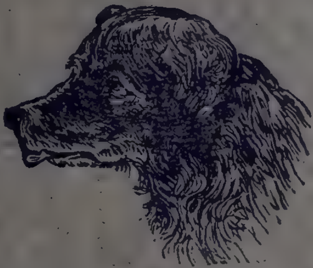

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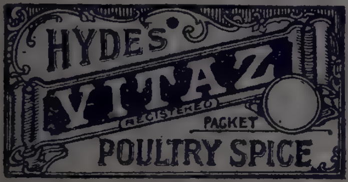
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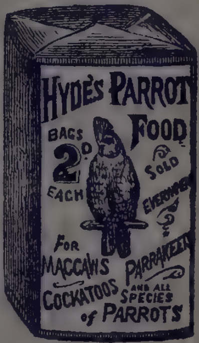
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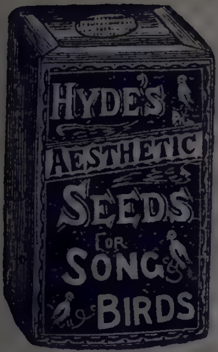
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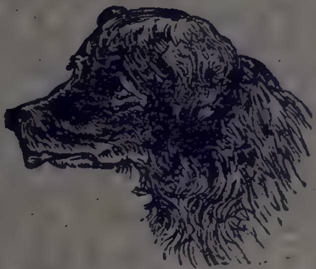

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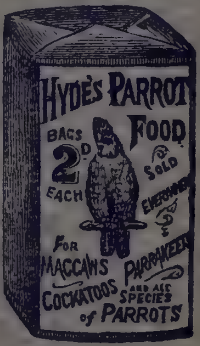
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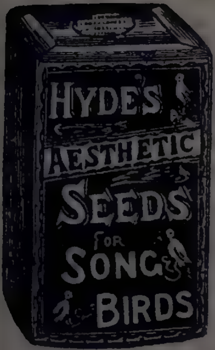
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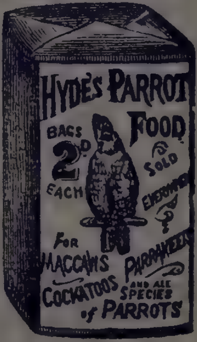
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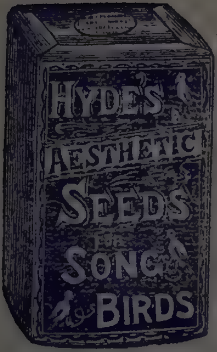
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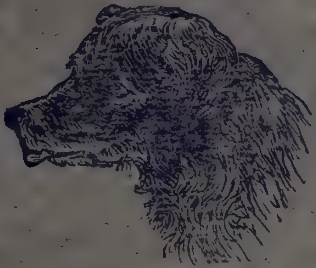

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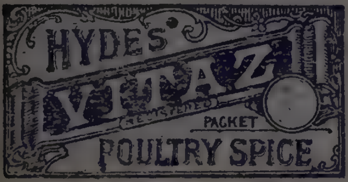
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THE JOURNAL OF
THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

EDITED BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S.

Vol. VIII No. 8. OCTOBER, 1909.

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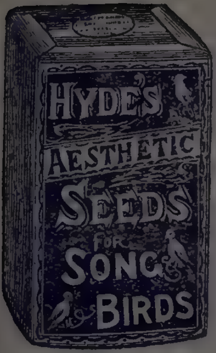
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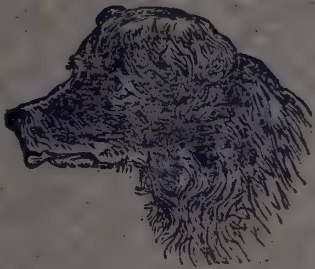

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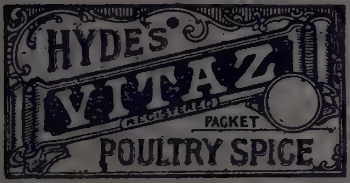
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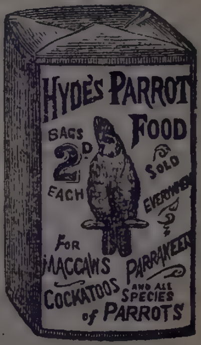
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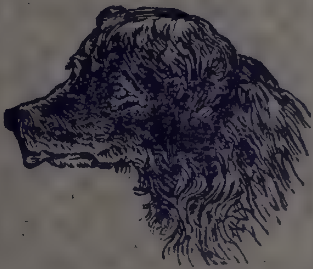

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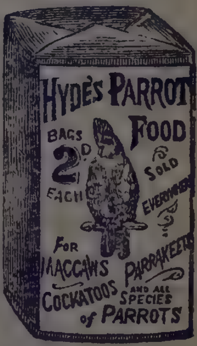
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